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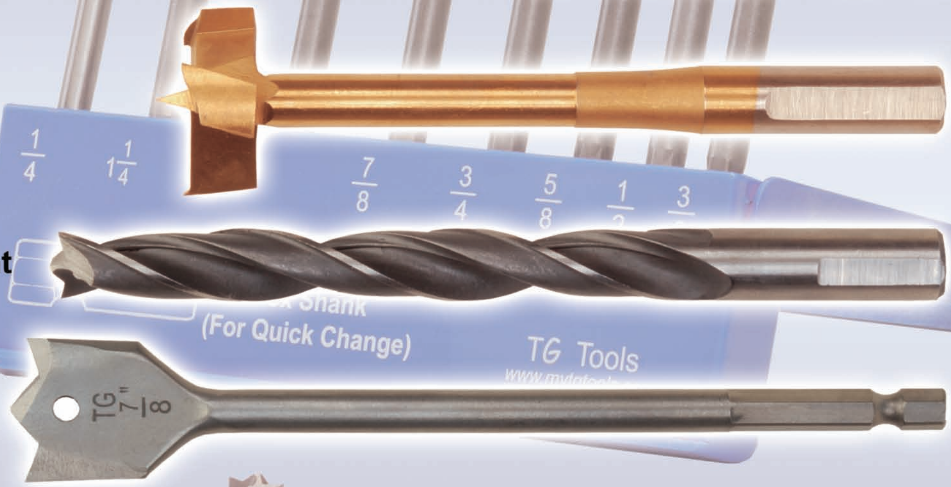

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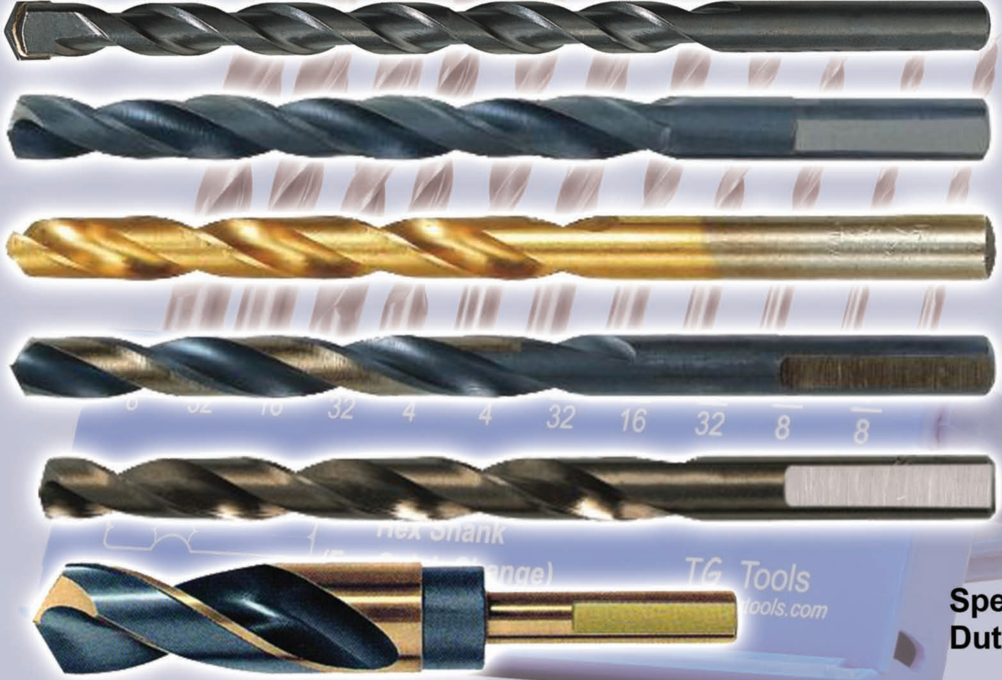

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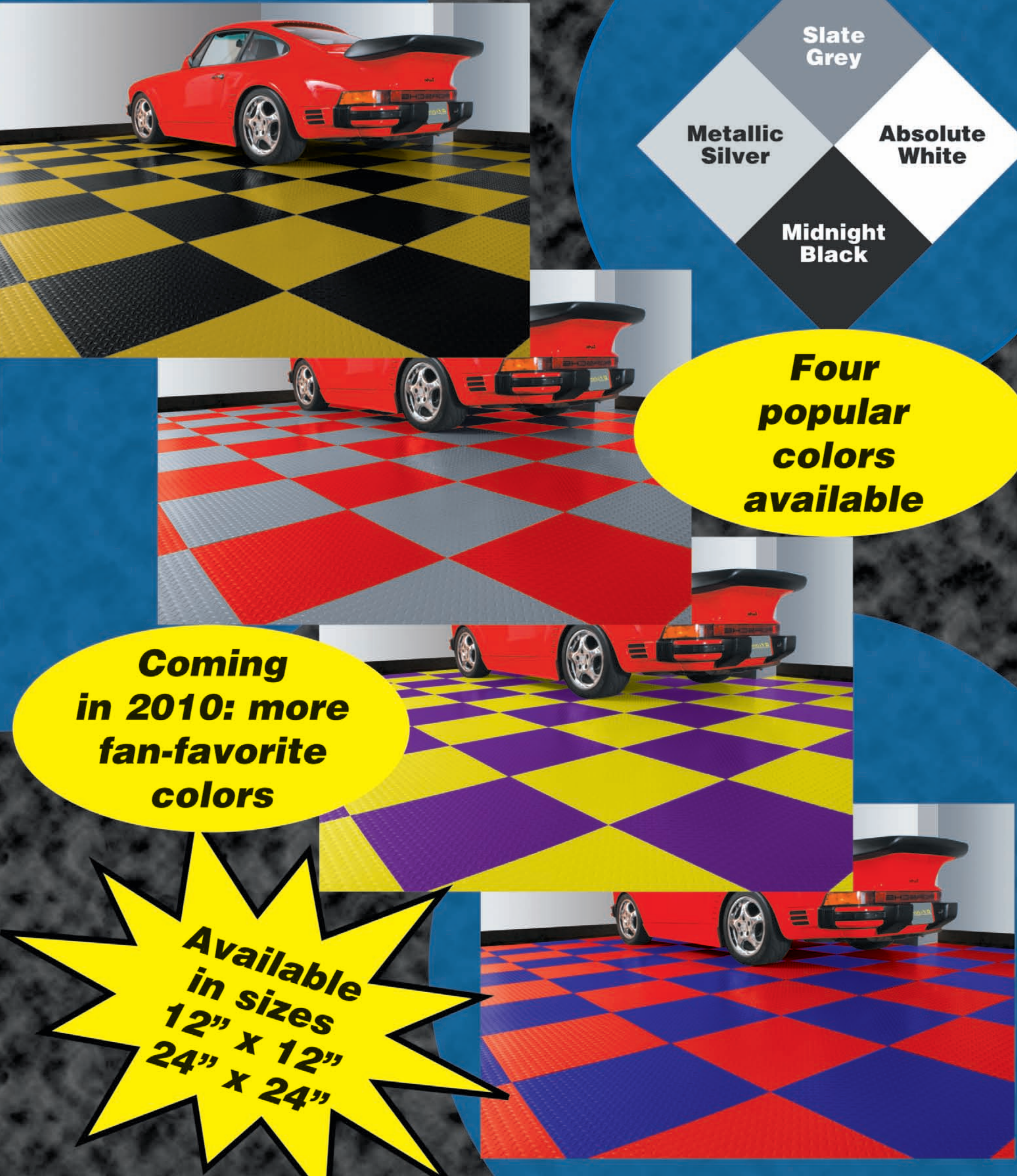

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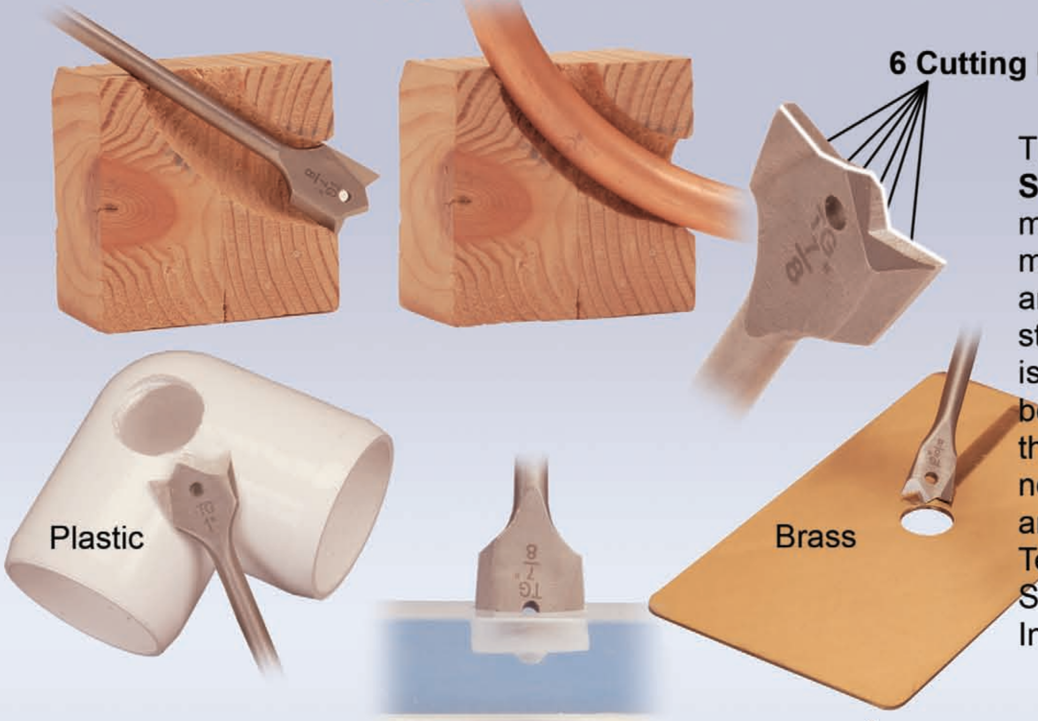

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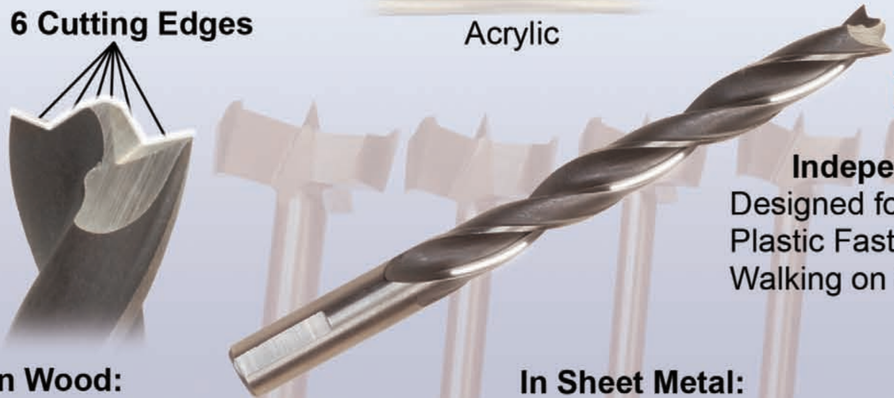

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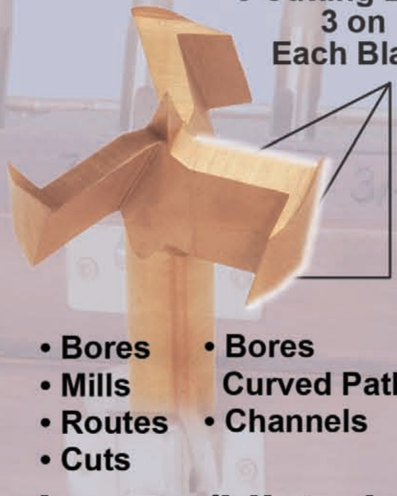

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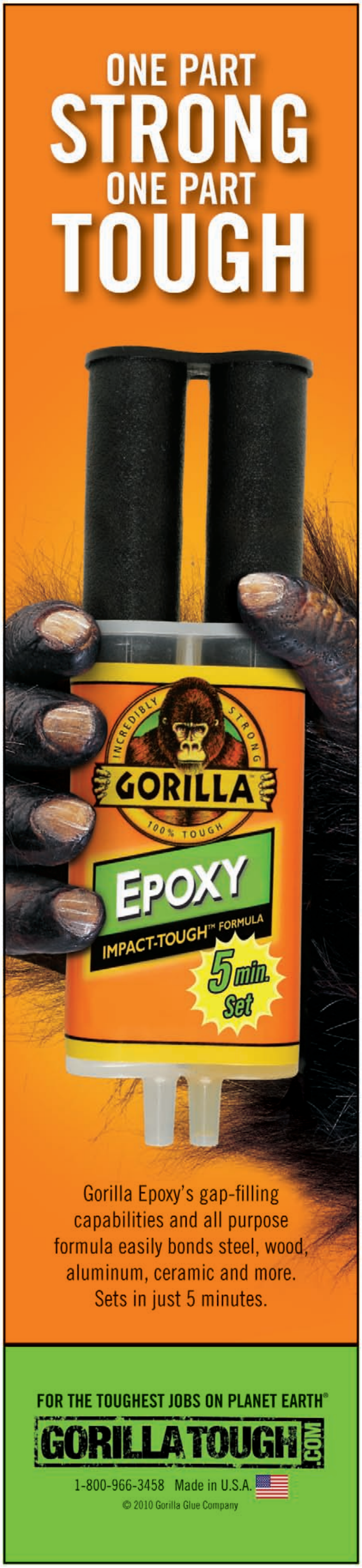

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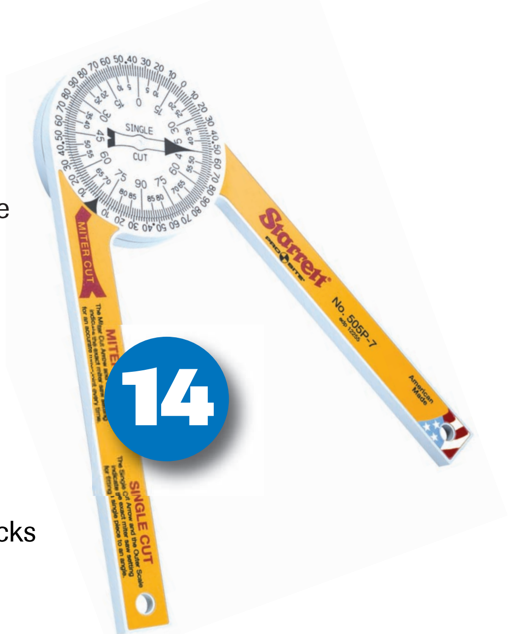
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LETTER

From The Editor-In-Chief

Extreme How-To has officially jumped on the Internet bandwagon and launched our own blog at blog.extremehowto.com. This interactive Web portal gives the *EHT* staff the opportunity to update our readers about ongoing projects, the latest home-improvement challenges we're facing, and how we try to overcome them. By using the blog's comment section, *EHT* readers can also chime in with their own questions and comments, and even offer advice that may grease the wheels of success for the projects we're currently undertaking. We can learn from you, and hopefully you can learn from us.

Additionally, we post about cool new tools and building products, and any other home-improvement news we feel our readers may find interesting. This also gives us a daily outlet for the very latest information to hit the industry, so our readers are kept up-to-speed on breaking news that comes down the pike between issues of the magazine.

Recent topics covered in the blog include new water-resistant materials to consider when renovating a dock, musings about bathroom remodels and how certain shady local contractors are ripping off elderly women, as well as quick product reviews of tools that our staff is currently using in the field. This provides a fun and informal outlet to share information with other home-improvement enthusiasts. The blog is still in its infancy, and we hope you'll visit us soon to drop a line and help us expand our online community.

Thanks for reading,

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Q&A Got a ?

*Questions About Home Building, Remodeling? Have Your Own How-To Tip? Visit our website at **www.extremehowto.com** and click on Home Repair Forum.*

Q: *What's an effective method to kill clover on my lawn? I don't like the little white flowers that attract insects.*

A: Clover is a low-growing perennial weed that infests lawns across the U.S. Depending on where you live, a preemergent weed-and-feed product can be an effective preventive measure. If you have St. Augustine grass or carpetgrass, make sure to select a product that won't harm them. To spot-treat clover, you need an effective post-emergent weed killer that won't harm your grass. Some weed killers are specially formulated for southern lawns. Always follow the directions for application on the label.

……

Q: *How do I drill through tile without breaking it? My wife wants me to hang a knife rack on our kitchen backsplash.*

A: Installing a knife-rack or other such kitchen amenity often requires pre-drilling through glazed tile for the mounting hardware. Standard twist-drill bits aren't strong enough to cut through the glaze, so you'll need to use a carbide-tipped masonry bit. For very hard tiles, you may need a diamond-tipped drill bit, which will not burn out as easily as masonry bits. The bit will have a tendency to slip or skate off the glossy surface, so first apply an "X" of masking tape over the hole location to provide traction for the bit during drilling. Start drilling at a low speed, increasing the speed as you go. Apply firm pressure, but not so hard that you risk breaking through the tile. Use a spray bottle of water to keep the bit lubricated, which reduces friction heat during drilling. Drill all the way through the tile and wallboard. Ease the pressure at the end of the hole for a clean cut, which provides a solid area for fastening if using a hollow-wall anchor such as a toggle bolt.

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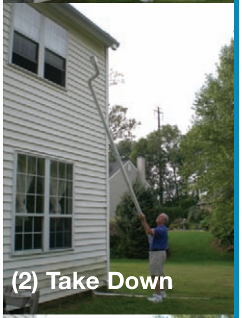
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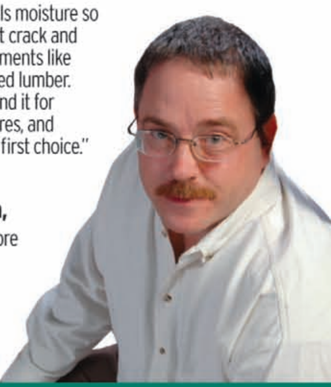

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Q&A Got a ?

*Questions About Home Building, Remodeling? Have Your Own How-To Tip? Visit our website at **www.extremehowto.com** and click on Home Repair Forum.*

Q. *I'd like to refinish a cast iron clawfoot tub, but the prices I've been quoted are outrageous. Is this something I can do myself?*

A. A cast iron tub can be refinished. However, be forewarned that this is a challenging project that's usually best left to an experienced professional. With that being said, refinishing a tub is basically a painting project, so mask off all the edges and protect everything you don't want painted with a drop cloth. Then repair all nicks and holes with the appropriate filler and sand the areas smooth. In fact, some professionals recommend using Bondo auto body filler, sanding it with progressively smaller grit and finally wet-sanding with 1,000-grit for a glassy finish. Prime the tub with an epoxy primer, and spray on an epoxy-based appliance paint, which creates a hard, durable shell. (Reprinted by reader request from a previous issue of *EHT*).

……

Q. *Our dog has brought fleas into the house. How do I get rid of them?*

A. You need to apply insecticide products that kill fleas to break the life-cycle. Spray the dog with a flea-killing product. Then, apply a flea-killing carpet spray to its sleeping quarters as well as all the areas where the dog has contact, including carpets, draperies and furniture upholstery. For heavy infestations, some manufacturers offer room-fogging products, but be prepared to vacate the house for a couple of hours while they work—along with your dog. Due to the flea life-cycle, some fleas may survive the initial treatment. This is because some of the fleas may have been in cocoon stage during application of the flea killer, and there is no flea treatment that can penetrate that protective cocoon. Keep an eye on any renewed flea activity during the first couple of weeks after treatment, and treat those areas immediately to avoid re-infestation. **EHT**

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Learning to Accessorize

Power tool accessories make trusted tools more versatile than ever.

Milescraft's Drill90 accessory for power drills instantly converts the tool into a right-angle drill.

By Matt Weber

If you're reading this magazine, the chances are good that you're a big fan of power tools. You probably have a favorite or two—the drill you've had for years, or the saw that never lets you down. Reliable tools are crucial for the professional craftsman or the serious DIY'er, but what if you could optimize those tools for more versatility, making a good tool even better? With a wide variety of available accessories for saws, drills and multi-function tools, you can do exactly that: configure your tool for easier work in a broader range of applications. The following are a few highlights the *EHT* staff thought you might find interesting.

BEYOND JUST A DRILL

Drilling in confined spaces can be a tricky feat. Often the problem with reaching a certain location is that the drill you're using is too large for the work space. This is why many professionals invest in a right-angle drill, providing a means of offset drilling from the side of the tool. Dedicated right-angle drills are excellent tools, but a pricey investment for those of us who only occasionally have need for one.

In response, Milescraft offers the Drill90 accessory for power drills. Milescraft (www.milescraft.com) is a company that specializes in universal tool attachments and accessories, and the Drill90 attachment chucks right into any 3/8-inch or larger drill with a solid steel drive. The Drill90 instantly converts the tool into a right-angle drill for boring holes inside cabinets, fastening inside drawers, or drilling between closely positioned framing members. The attachment is ready to use, including a chuck and key, and it's reversible for right- or left-hand use. Although the Drill90 doesn't have quite the muscle to power hole-saw cutters or auger-style bits, it does provide an economical alternative for lighter duty right-angle drilling and driving.

While 90-degree drilling is a nice feature, there are many other angles of attack that can optimize a drill's performance. To that end, Milescraft also offers the Orbiter attachment that enables the user to drill and drive at virtually any angle. Like the Drill90, it chucks into any 3/8-inch drill, but the attachment is built with a "split-body" construction so that each half rotates independently a full 360 degrees. The Orbiter allows an infinite number of drilling angles. Once you've dialed in your angle of preference, simply lock it in position by twisting the handle. The Orbiter features a 3/8-inch keyless chuck that fits all drill bits up to a 3/8-inch shank.

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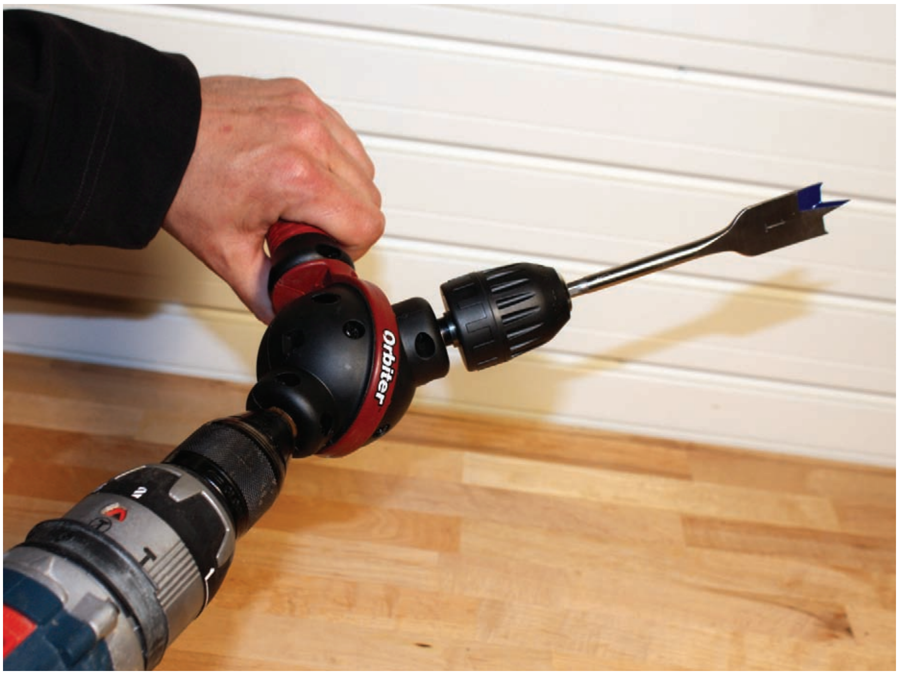
ROTARY TOOL ACCESSORIES

Rotary tools fall into two categories; smaller detail-oriented tools, such as the Dremel, and construction-grade spiral saws, popularized by Rotozip. Whereas they are similar in design and function, they are intended for very different applications. The smaller Dremel-style tool gives the user precise control of cutting and drilling in light-duty applications, but they don't have the torque or cutting power for heavy-duty tasks. Spiral saws, on the other hand, are too large and aggressive for precision work such as detail sanding, carving or hobby work, but they have plenty of power for cutting everything from plywood to large ceramic tile.



The Orbiter attachment enables the user to drill and drive at virtually any angle.

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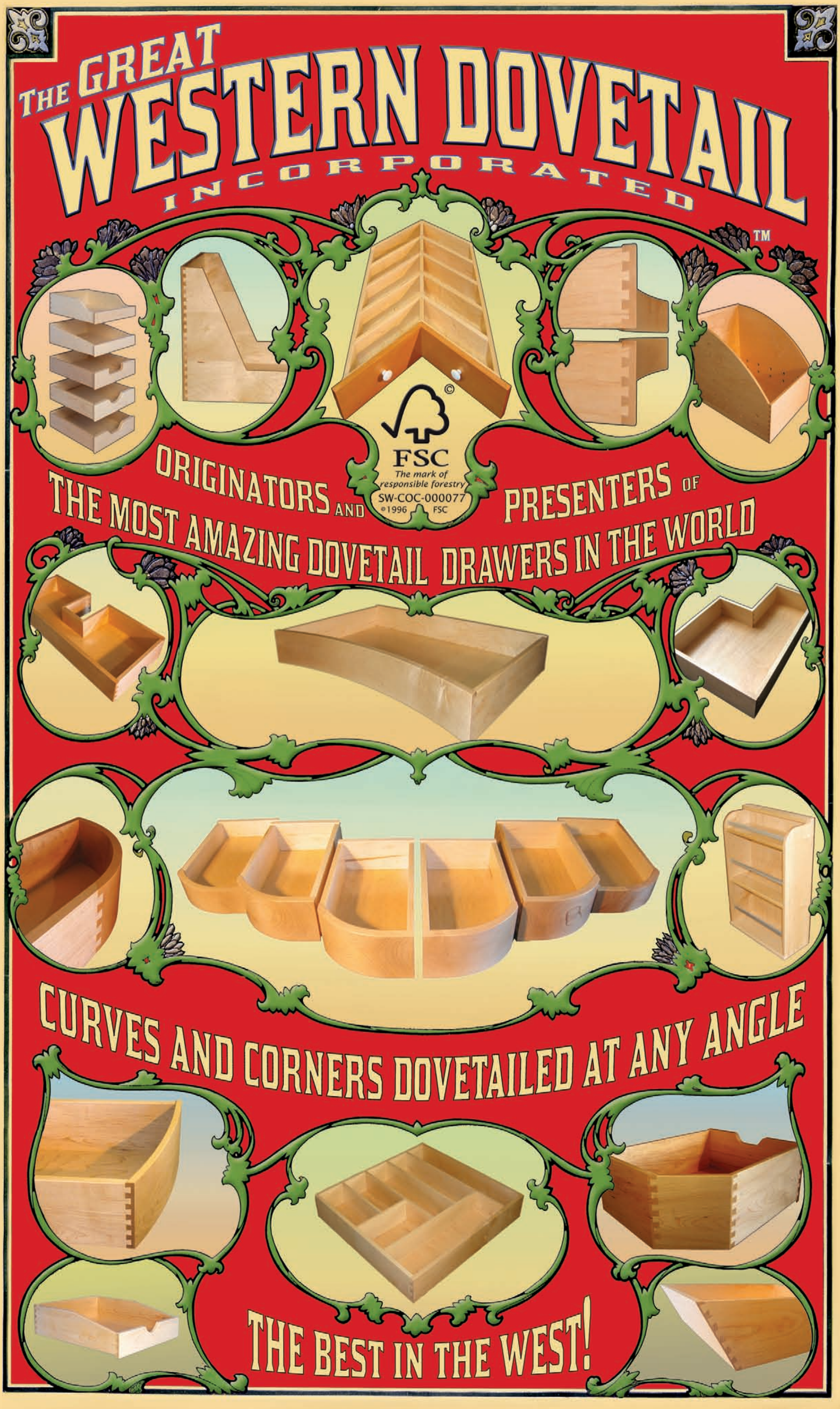
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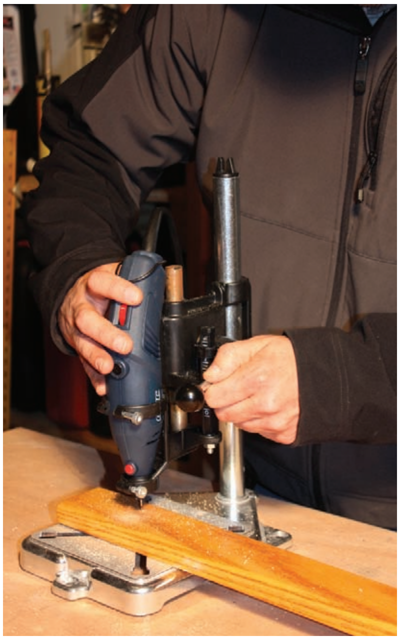
For Dremel-style rotary tools, Milescraft manufactures a handy ToolStand that configures the tool as a drill press for precision boring applications or "production-line" repetitive drilling. Clamp the tool into the ToolStand and lower the bit into the work piece using the spring-loaded rack and pinion gearing. The ToolStand includes a scale and a depth stop that enables the user to set the exact depth control for repetitive tasks. The ToolStand is built with a 6-by-6-inch metal base that mounts or clamps to a bench for steadfast stability and a level work surface. It fits most (but not all) Dremel-style rotary tools, including Dremel #300 and #400.


The ToolStand from Milescraft configures a Dremel-style rotary tool as a drill press for precise repetitive drilling.

Another neat accessory for a rotary tool is Milescraft's Grout Removal Combo Kit. It's a two-part kit, the first of which is the AnglePlunge, which mounts onto the end of the tool just like a standard guide collar, but the AnglePlunge is adjustable for drilling at any angle. This can be used for materials such as drywall or plywood, but is also necessary to guide an abrasive grout-removal bit. With a grout-removal bit secured in the Angle Plunge, the tool can

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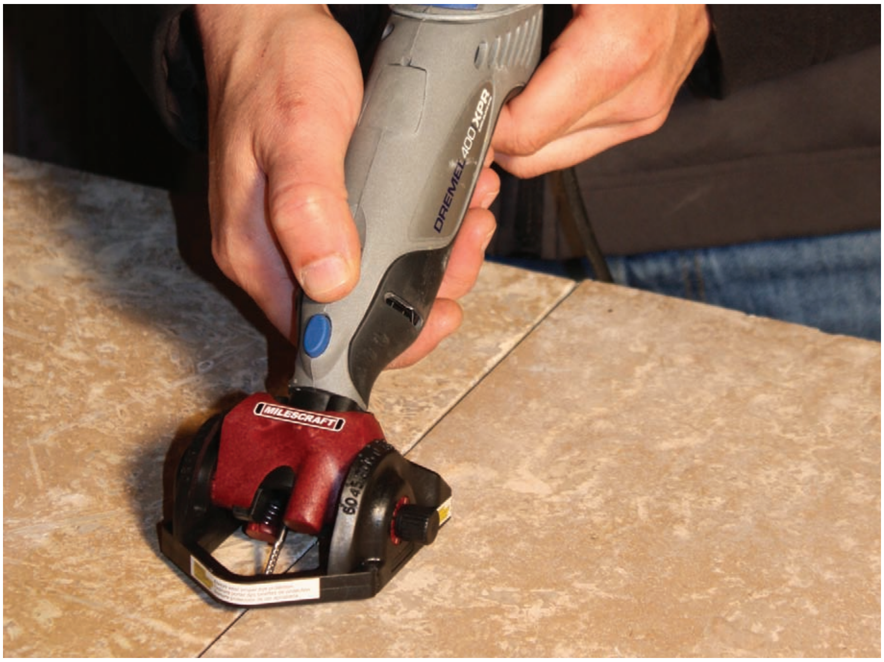
cut out grout from very fine grout lines without damaging the tile in the process. The second part of the kit is the CornerGrout Remover, which does just what it sounds like, designed with an angled face and extended nose to fit into hard-to-access corners.

A broad range of accessories are also available for the larger construction-grade spiral saws, from flexible drill shafts to straight-edge guides. Personally, I find a cutoff attachment the most useful spiral saw accessory. It transforms your spiral saw into a heavy-duty cutoff saw for cutting nails, pipe, tile and more. Look for a cutoff attachment that can be configured as a flush-cut saw for tasks such as trimming door jambs in place when installing a new floor. Rotozip



Grout-removal attachments enable a rotary tool to cut away old grout without damaging tile.

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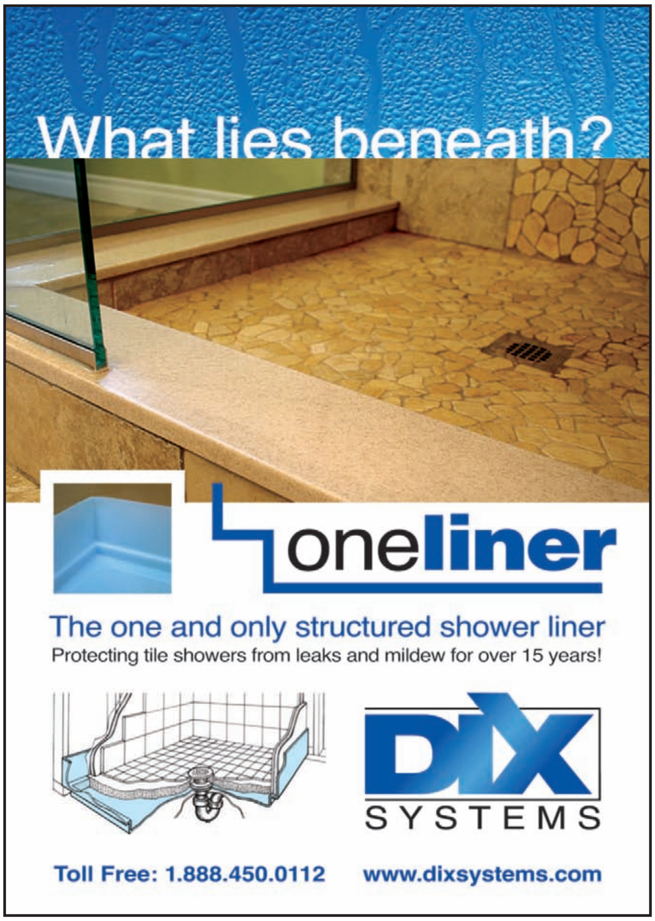
A spiral-saw equipped with a cutoff attachment can cut wood, chop pipe and trim J-bolts from concrete pier footings.

offers a cutoff attachment for construction applications, and when powered by the newly designed model RZ2000 spiral saw, which is capable of reaching 30,000 RPM, its aggressive cutting action can make quick work of cutting wood, chopping pipe or trimming J-bolts from concrete pier footings (as shown in the photo).

ROUTING SUREFIRE CIRCLES

Routers can cut decorative profiles, produce a variety of wood joints or even be used to cut through material for shaping and sizing. For cutting circular patterns, the circle-cutting router jig from Milescraft operates much like a large compass. It pivots from a



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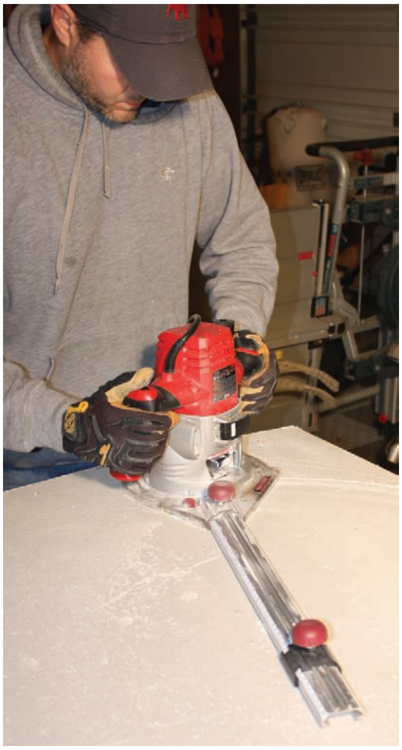

center point anchored to the work piece with a finish nail, guiding the router in a perfect arc for cutting circles from 10 to 51 inches. The jig is made from a sturdy 20-inch aluminum beam and attaches to the router via a 7-inch universal base plate. The jig is available in Milescraft's Router Guide Kit, which includes an offset base and a straightedge guide that easily adjusts for cutting dado slots up to 31 inches from the edge of the work piece.

Milescraft's circle-cutting guide for routers can cut perfect arcs from 10" to 51". It is available as part of the Router Guide Kit.

OSCILLATING TOOLS: BUILT FOR ACCESSORIES

Among the most versatile types of power tools are the multi-function oscillating tools made popular by the Fein Multimaster. Unlike most tools built for a primary specialized purpose, these tools are specifically designed to take advantage of a system of different accessories to tackle many different jobs. These days, a variety of manufacturers, including Bosch, Ridgid, Rockwell and Craftsman, are running with the concept of these multipurpose devices, which do everything from scrape and grind to flush-cut and sand, depending on the attachment fitted to the head of the tool. In many cases, these new tools can take the place of several other tools.

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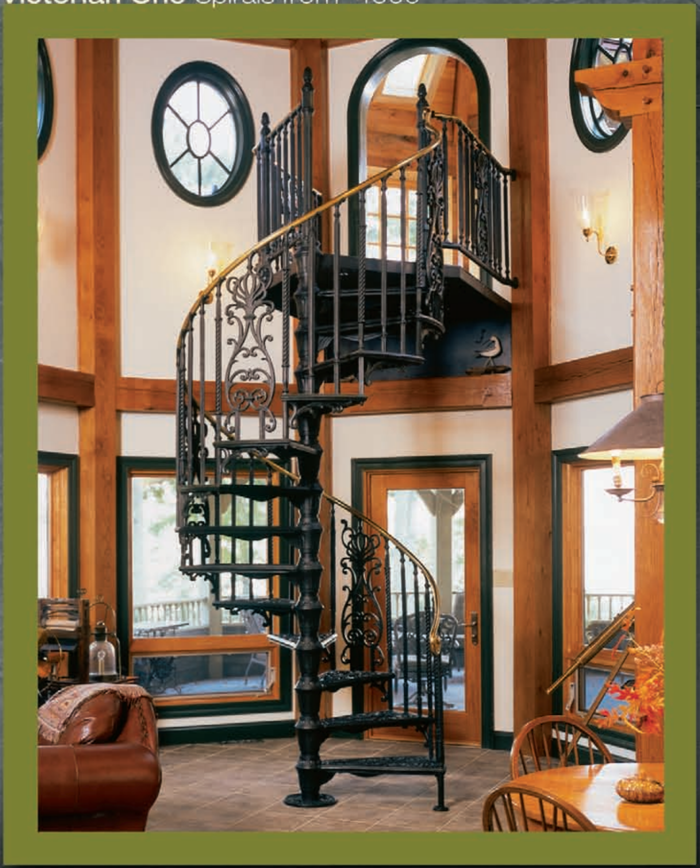

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Many oscillating tools are sold with a variety of attachments, or you can purchase a more streamlined, economical kit and add to your arsenal of accessories as you need them. Scraper accessories are available for removing floor covering and adhesive residue. Flush-cut blades are great for flooring and plumbing applications, and plunge-cut blades are excellent for making precise notches in trim carpentry and cabinetry. Most oscillating tools are also available with hook-and-loop sanding plates for both rough and smooth sanding tasks.

Oscillating tools are built to power a wide range of accessories, from blades and scrapers to sanding attachments.

An oscillating tool with a plunge-cut blade can make precise notches in trim carpentry, cabinets and countertops.

TABLE SAW ACCESSORIES

Accessories for a table saw can make this workshop-favorite an easier tool to use. A feather board helps hold stock tightly against a rip fence, using the flexible “feathers” to prevent chatter while cutting and protecting against kickback. Milescraft

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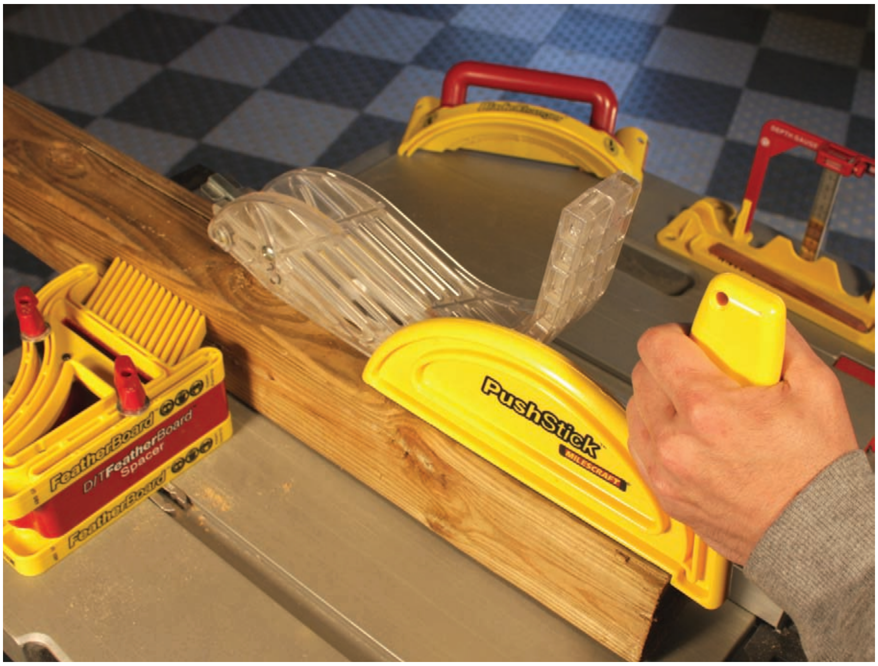
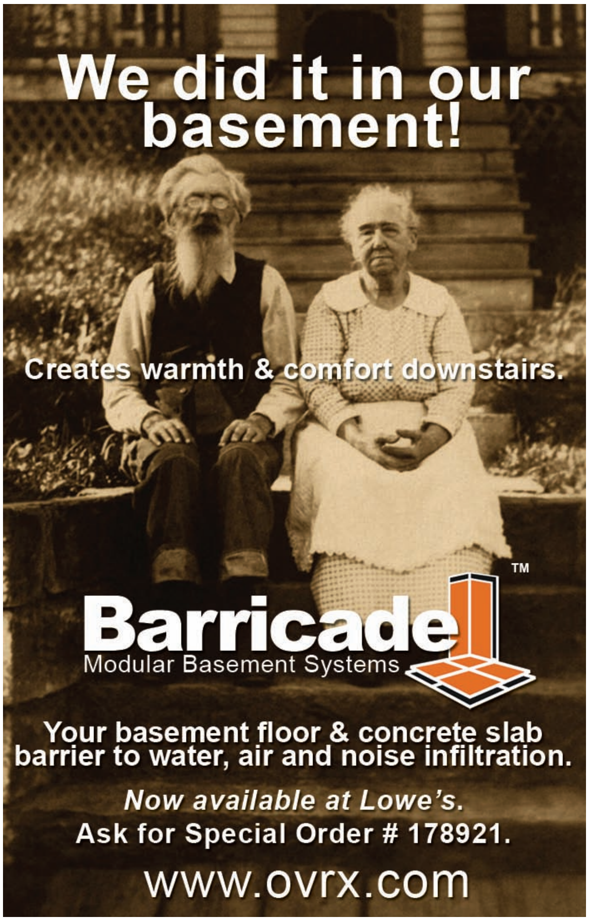
offers a D/T Featherboard; the D/T stands for Dual/Tandem. This is comprised of two feather boards sandwiching a sturdy full-size spacer for supporting thick or vertically oriented stock for cutting. Or, separate the D/T Featherboard into two feather boards for dual application, clamping the stock to the saw from both the side and from above. The D/T Featherboard comes with all the hardware necessary for dual or tandem use on most table saws, router tables, band saws and fences.

Milescraft also manufactures the PushStick to keep the user's fingers safely away from the table saw blade, while simultaneously exerting downward pressure on the work piece for stable, accurate rip cuts. The



Milescraft manufactures a line of table saw accessories, including the D/T Featherboard, the PushStick and the BladeChanger.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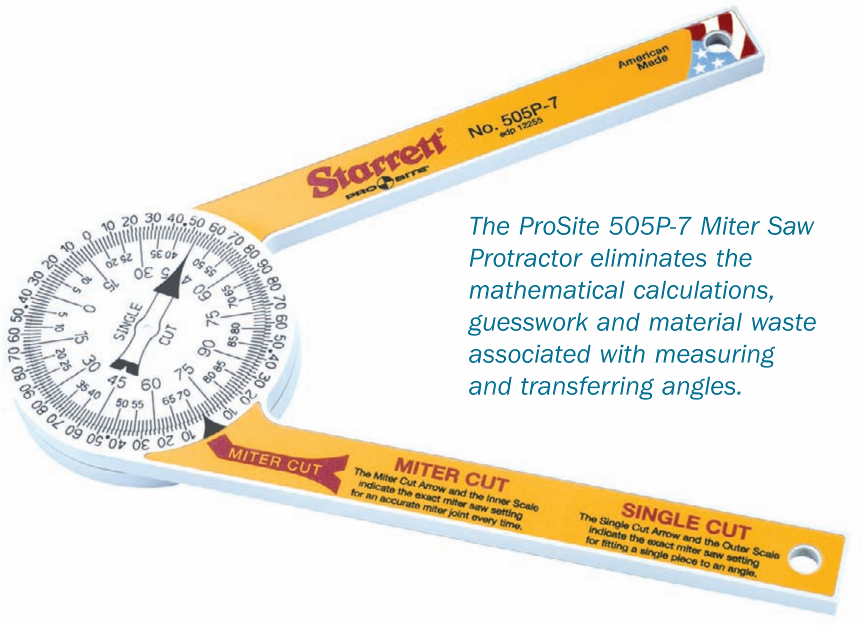
PushStick includes a depth gauge with a magnetic docking station.

Also available is the BladeChanger from Milescraft that holds the blade in place and has an open design so the user can view the blade while changing. Use the handle to keep a firm grip on the blade without damaging it—or your fingers—when replacing it with a different one.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MITER SAW PROTRACTOR

The *EHT* staff would never overlook the miter saw, and the latest miter-saw accessory we've come across is the ProSite 505P-7 Miter Saw Protractor from the L.S. Starrett Construction Division (www.starrett.com). This is a durable plastic version of the company's 505 Series, and offered at a lower price point. The new Miter Saw Protractor is a low-cost solution to eliminate the mathematical calculations, guesswork and material waste associated with measuring and transferring angles. For mitering or making single butt-joint cuts, the user simply adjusts the tool legs to the work surfaces, reads the angle on the dial face, and sets the miter saw to the reading for a quick and accurate cut. The 505P-7 is built to withstand tough jobsite environments, with tensioned 7-inch legs that feature a Teflon "O" ring for smooth, precise operation. **EHT**

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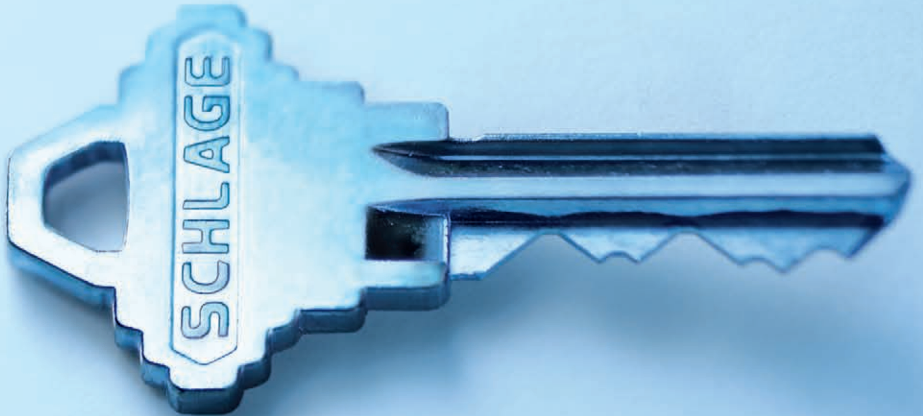

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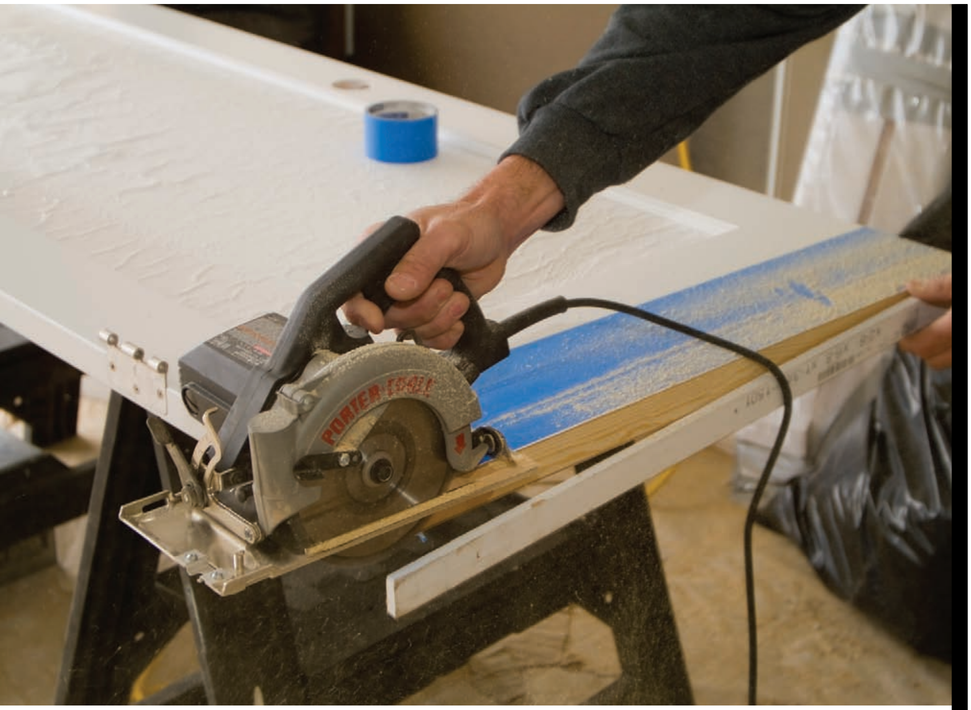


By Larry Walton

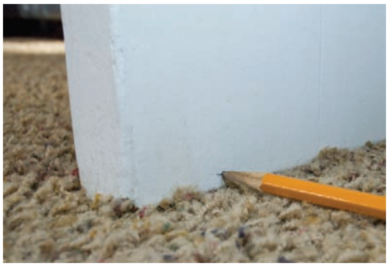
At Oregon Carpenters we hang hundreds of doors a year, so learning how to set them up for proper floor clearance is important. However, there are times when cutting off doors cannot be avoided especially on home-improvement projects where there has been a change in flooring.

Determining how much to cut off can be a problem. If in doubt, sneak up on it. In other words, cut off a little, try it and cut off a little more if necessary.

If the door is dragging on carpet, it works pretty well to put a No. 2 pencil on the carpet and mark the door. The radius of the pencil usually provides adequate clearance. Swing the door over the full arc of its travel and mark it where it drags heaviest on the carpet.

If you are on a new hard surface, like tile, wood or vinyl, and you can't get the door on the hinges because it is too high on the new flooring, put the door as close as possible to position and measure how much it would need to drop to get the hinge plates to line up, or to get the hinge plate to settle into the hinge-plate mortise. Adjust this measurement to take off an additional 1/4 inch for clearance.

Here are the steps I take to cut off a door so it has clearance to swing.



Lay a pencil on the carpet to mark the cut-off elevation on the door face.

One of the best ways to make sure you are cutting off the bottom and not the top of a door is to measure to the door hardware location, which should be about 36 inches from the bottom.

APPROACH WITH CAUTION

Don't jump too quickly onto the task of cutting off exterior doors. If the door is dragging on the threshold, make sure there is not another issue at play, such as loose hinge screws or out-of-place threshold parts. If the door is not clearing interior flooring, the better fix is often to raise the entire door jamb and threshold. Cutting off the door without raising the threshold may result in an improper seal. If you decide to cut off an exterior door, make sure you have a plan for sealing the bottom of the door against the threshold when the door is closed.

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To chamfer the cut edge of the door, make a sanding block by cutting a 2-by-3/4-inch strip of wood 1/2 inch shorter than the diameter of the peel-and-stick sanding paper for your random orbit sander. The length of the sanding block bridges over dips in the saw cut and gives the resulting chamfer a much straighter appearance than the saw cut.

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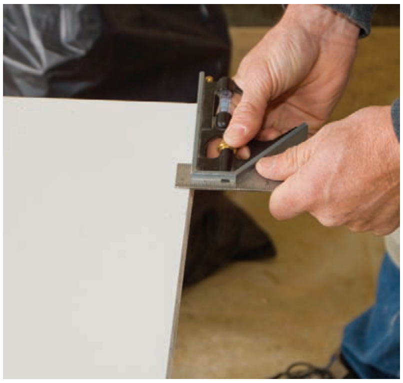
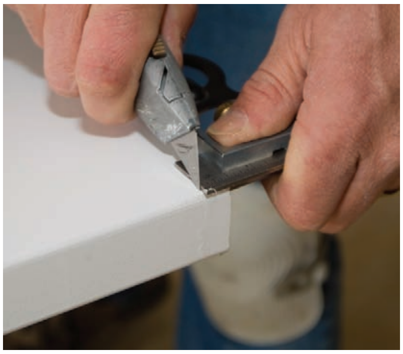
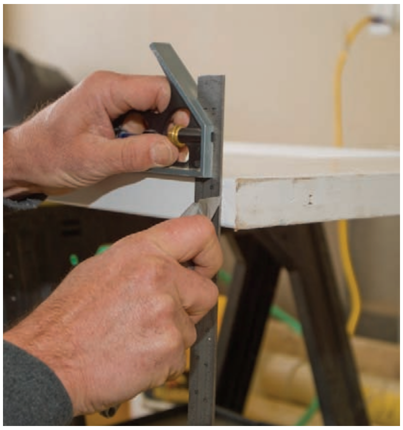

Adjust your combination square to the amount you want to remove from the door bottom.


Use your utility knife and combo square to score the door across the face.


Extend the scoring marks down the door edges. This prevents tear-out during cutting.

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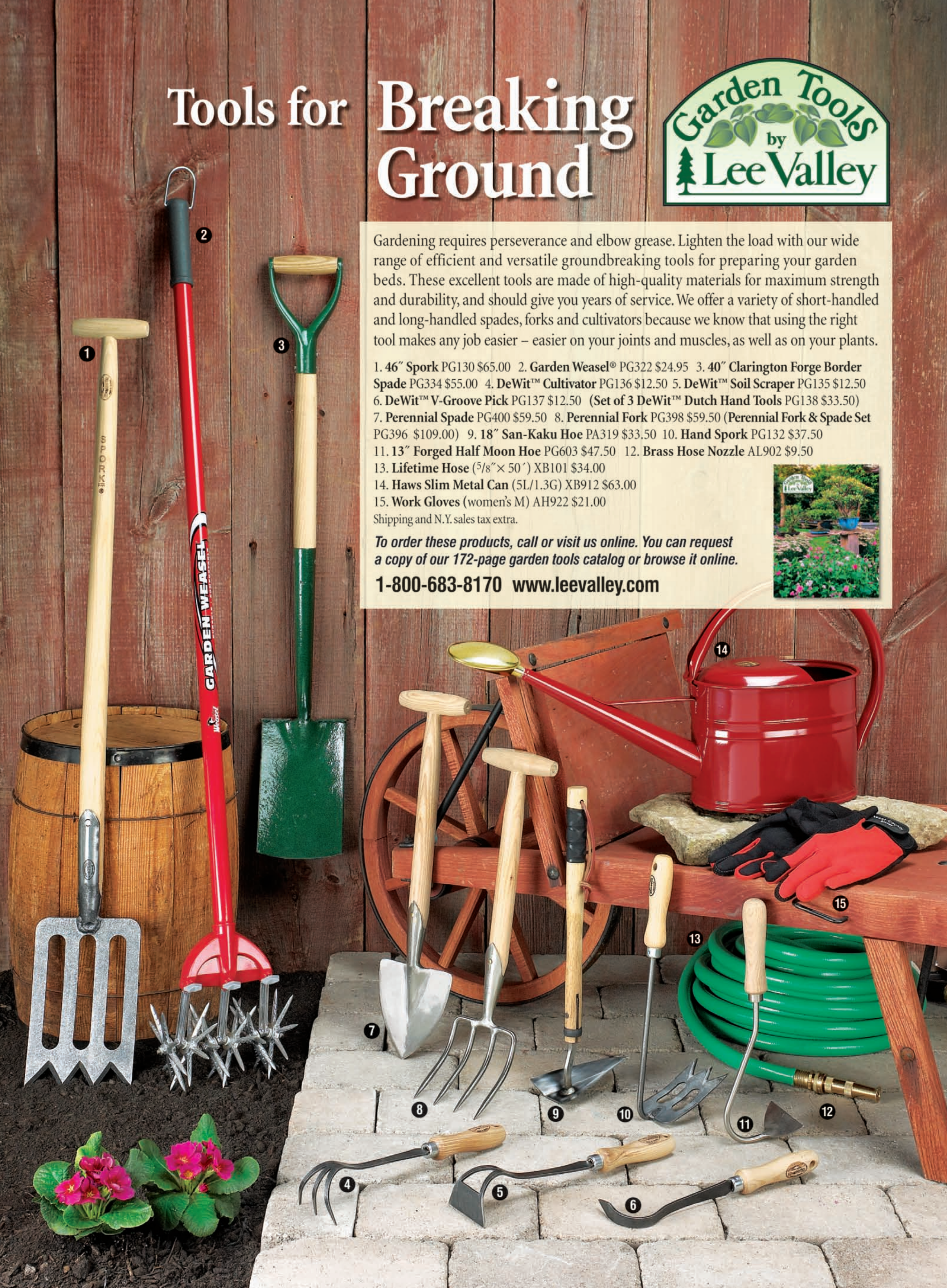
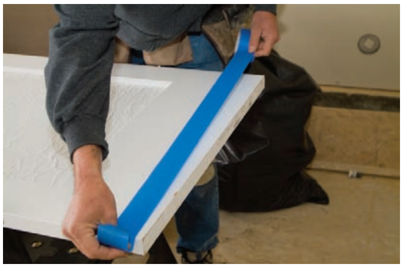
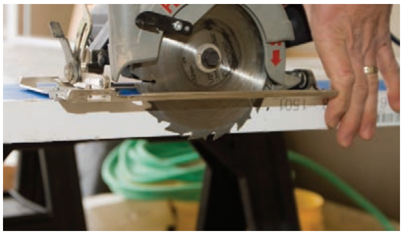
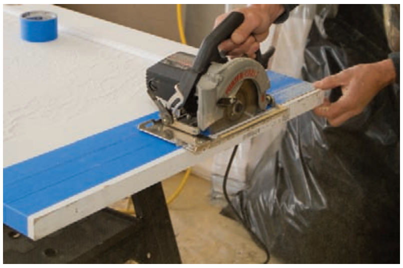




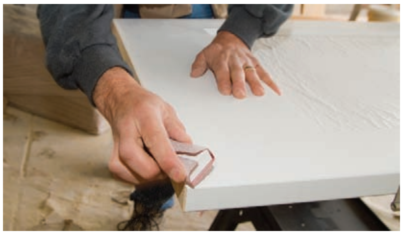
Protect the door surface with masking tape. This helps prevent the saw base from leaving marks on the door.



Set the depth of cut so the blade extends about 3/8 inch beyond the door thickness.



Make the cut, keeping the kerf about 1/16 inch outside the scoring mark. Hold onto the off-fall as the saw exits the door.



Use a sanding block to shape a slight chamfer all the way around the bottom of the door. **EHT**

DOOR CUT-OFF QUICK TIPS

- **Make sure you are cutting the bottom and not the top of the door.**
- **Score the door to prevent tear-out from the saw blade.**
- **Protect the door surface to avoid scratches from the saw base.**
- **Chamfer the door bottom to hide bobbles in the cut and to prevent snagging and chipping in daily use.**

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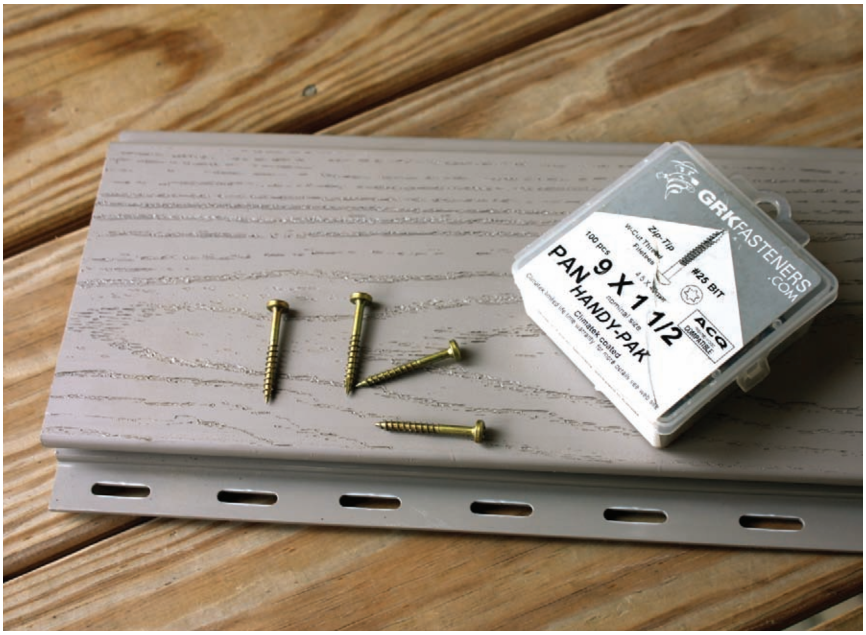
DECKED OUT IN VINYL

A PVC decking and handrail system serves as an attractive, low-maintenance alternative to traditional building materials.

When Dave Dunlap was selecting materials to remodel his deck, the maintenance requirements of the product was a major consideration. The deck in question was located in a shady backyard with a lot of tree cover, making it susceptible to collecting leaves and other debris that can cause surface staining to wooden deck boards. Dunlap wanted a stain-resistant deck that was easy to install and required little more than an occasional cleaning to keep it looking good as new. He decided to use a tongue-and-groove decking system made from solid PVC.

PVC (Polyvinyl chloride) is a moisture-resistant building material that is not subject to bacterial rot, nor does it split or swell from water absorption as wood does. This moisture-resistance is especially useful on flat, exterior surfaces, such as decks, that provide a place for standing water to accumulate. PVC decking is also lightweight and easy to cut and install. Standard woodworking tools are generally all that is required to saw it, glue it, drill it and fasten it.

By Matt Weber



The PVC decking from Genova Products is fastened to the deck joists with pan-head screws driven through slots in a nailing flange, which allows the boards to move with temperature changes.

Additionally, PVC has another significant maintenance-saving advantage over wood: color retention. Whereas wood needs to be sealed or stained periodically to combat moisture, protect from UV rays and impart a durable color tone, the latest integrated color technology for PVC promises a lifetime of weatherability with a low-gloss, wood-grain surface. The prospect of easy upkeep combined with DIY-friendly installation and the availability of a complementary deck-railing system convinced Dunlap to choose the PVC decking system.

FIRST STEPS IN INSTALLATION

Dunlap installed the Genovations line of PVC deck boards from Genova Products,

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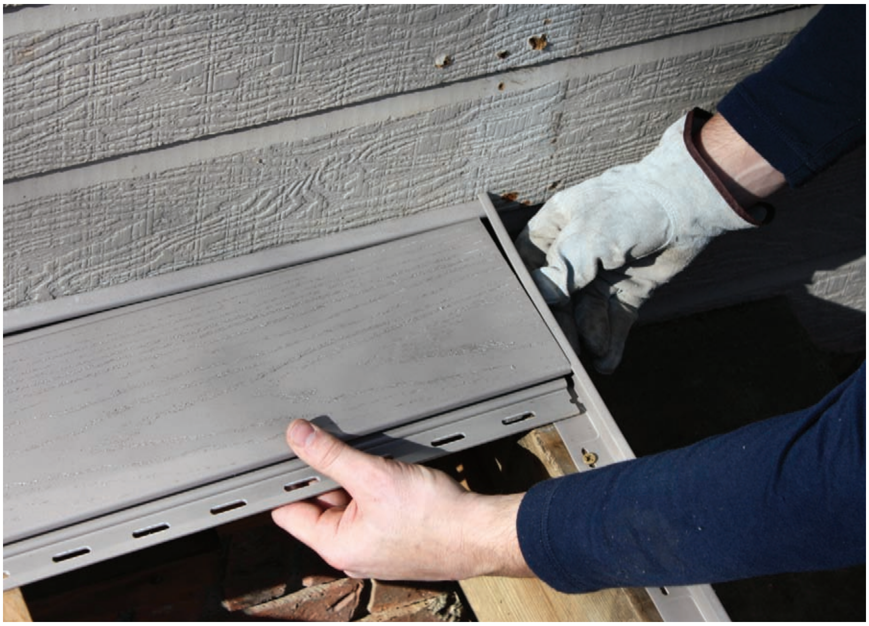
which interconnects along each seam in a tongue-and-groove fashion to conceal the deck-fasteners. As with any deck project, before beginning installation check your local building department regarding codes and regulations for deck framing, hand rail construction and stairway installations. Dunlap was re-decking a previously constructed deck that was built with joists on 16-inch centers, which is a requirement for the 5/4-inch PVC decking that he selected.

With the old deck boards and fasteners completely removed, the installation of new decking began with the placement of a PVC Deck Starter strip, which features a groove to accept the tongue of the first deck board. Before installing, make sure your


Installation begins with a starter strip fastened over the ledger board and an adjacent trim strip fastened to one of the rim joists, which conceals the ends of the deck boards.

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deck ledger board is properly flashed to the house wall to prevent any future water damage to that critical framing connection. Screw the deck starter strip along the ledger board, flush with the edge closest to the house.

When fastening the PVC components, each piece features a flange with slots for the screws. Much like vinyl siding, the slots on the starter strip, deck boards and trim pieces allow flexibility in placing screws for expansion and contraction of the material as temperatures fluctuate. Generally it's advisable to place a screw in the center of the slot to allow the deck board to move in either lineal direction. If you want to restrict movement at a certain point, drill a hole in the fastening flange and anchor that hole with a screw. Use pan-head deck screws that are coated for use in pressure-treated lumber or made from stainless steel.

Common woodworking tools will easily cut and drill the PVC material. A jigsaw is a handy tool for cutting notches to install around handrail posts.

With the starter strip down, Dunlap then installed a C-channel trim strip on the adjacent rim joist to accept one end of the deck boards to conceal their

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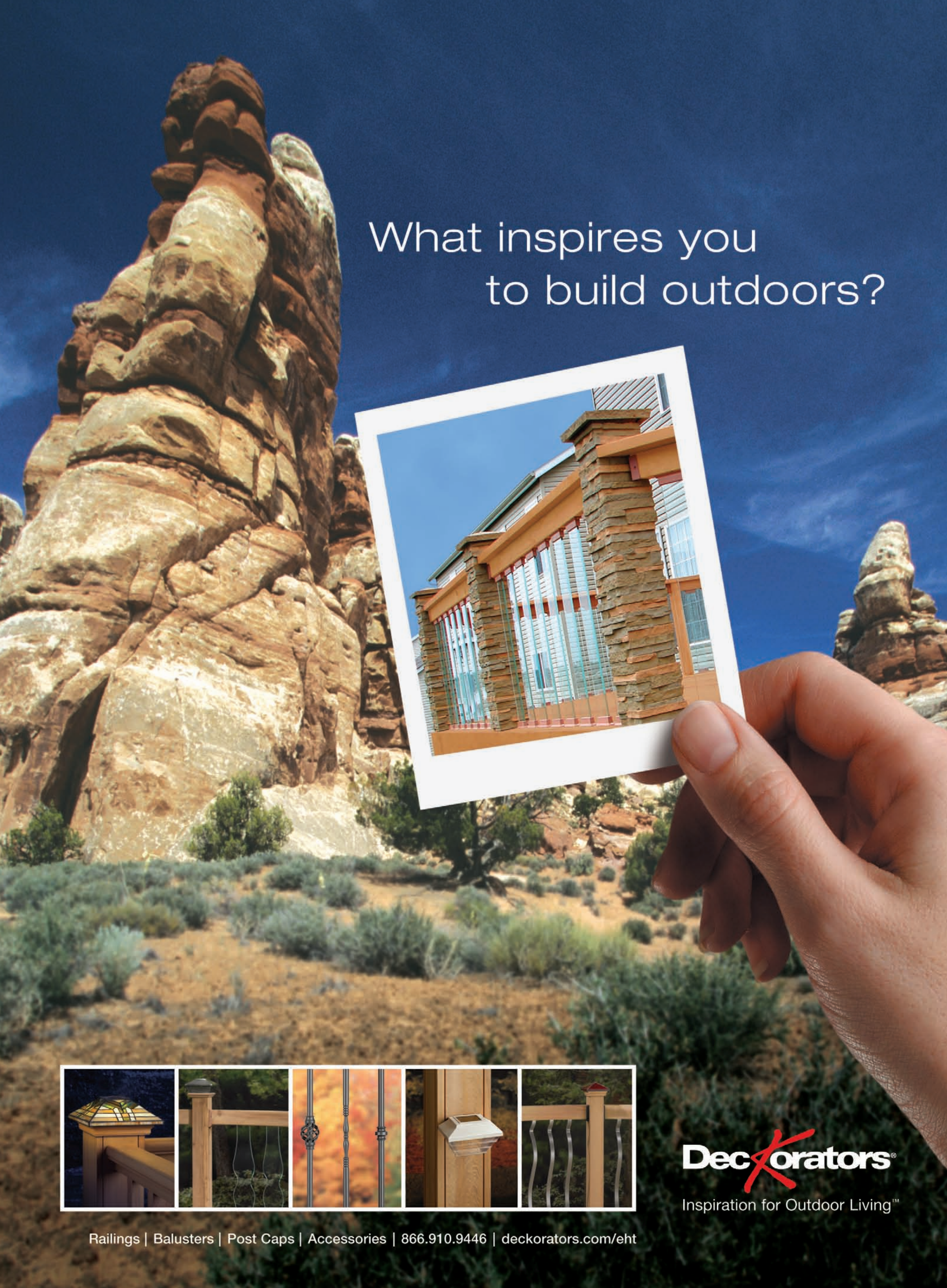

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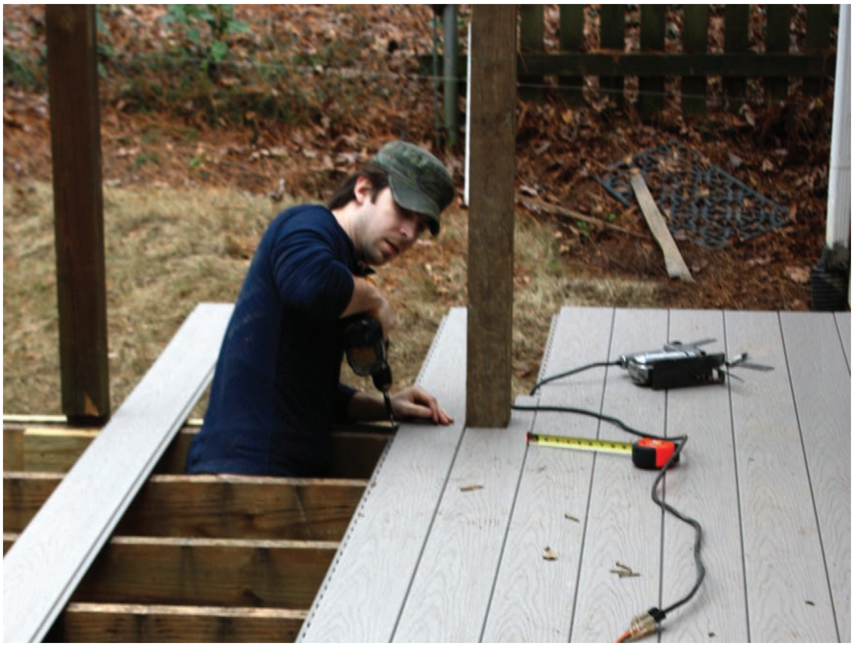

As the decking is installed the boards interconnect with a tongue-and-groove system that conceals all the fasteners.

profile and provide a neat, finished appearance to the deck.

BOARD INSTALLATION

With the two starter strips in place, the PVC deck boards go down next. To install the decking, place the tongue of the first board into the groove of the starter strip. Align the slots of the deck board over the center of the joists. If the slots don't align, you can add a wooden nailing block along the edge of the joist and flush with its top to prove a solid anchoring surface. Fasten the deck board to every joist.

Repeat this procedure for the remaining deck boards, inserting the tongue of the new board into the groove of the preceding one, which conceals the nailing

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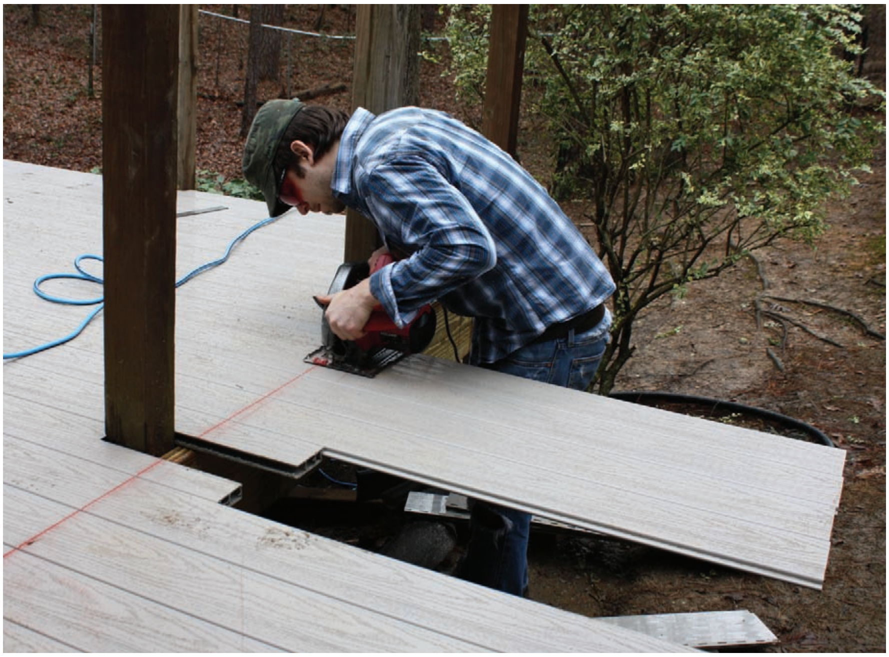

We ran the deck boards long and cut them all at once after installation was complete.

flange for a deck surface that appears free of any fasteners.

It may be necessary to rip the last board to width before fastening. Once installed, the exposed edge of the last board can be concealed with another trim strip and/or a fascia board.

It may also be necessary to notch the boards to accept deck-rail posts. The PVC can easily be cut with a jigsaw, using predrilled holes at the intersection of the cuts to allow room to turn the jigsaw blade. (The notches cut in the deck boards can be concealed with 4-by-4 PVC trim pieces included with Genova's rail system, which slide over the posts and collar them at the bottom.)

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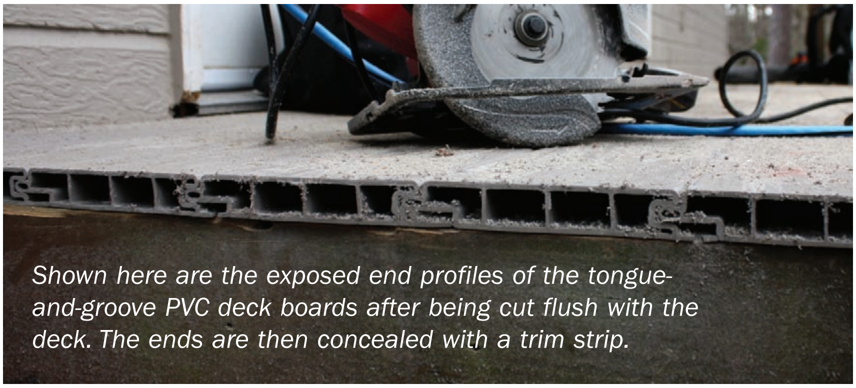

Shown here are the exposed end profiles of the tongue-and-groove PVC deck boards after being cut flush with the deck. The ends are then concealed with a trim strip.

Dunlap ran the deck boards "wild," meaning he left the ends of the boards hanging over the edge of the framing to be trimmed all at once after the decking was complete. Where the deck boards crossed the rim joist, Dunlap snapped a chalk line over their surfaces flush with the edge of the deck. He then cut all the boards along the chalk line for an even installation, and then concealed the exposed ends of the decking with a final PVC trim piece. This final step completed his new deck surface.

The L-shaped trim piece at the far end of the decking provides a finished look to the edges of the deck.

PVC DECK RAILING

Although Genova Products does offer railing systems colored to match its deck boards, Dunlap opted for a white-colored system that matched the existing trim of his house. The Genova railing system gets its strength from the use of solid, pressure -treated posts and aluminum rail channels that are concealed in PVC sleeves. The railing system is offered in three styles and four colors, available in 6- or 8-foot sections. The package includes all the hidden brackets and hardware needed for installation.

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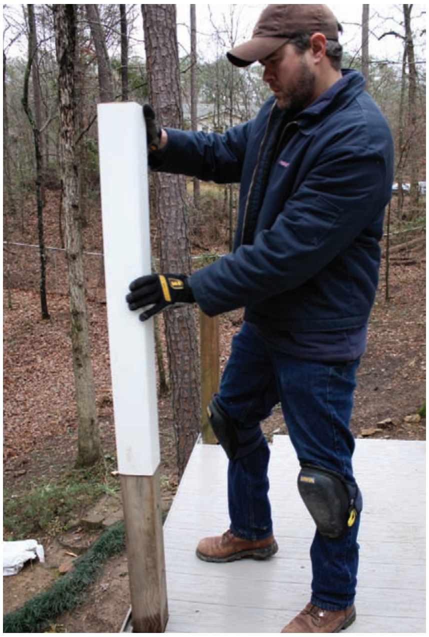
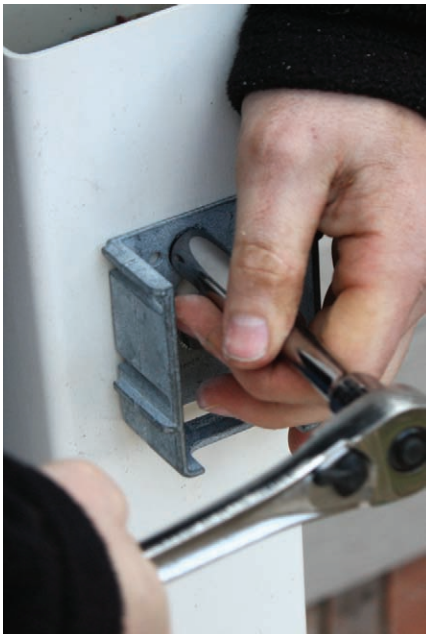


The PVC deck railing begins with the installation of post covers that slip right over the existing 4 x 4's.



Each deck rail is supported by two metal mounting brackets that are bolted to the center of the posts.

The deck must be built in accordance with local codes with treated wood posts installed on 71-3/4-inch centers (maximum). The wood posts should be cut 36 inches above the deck surface.

Begin installation of the PVC system by sliding the 4-by-38-inch Post Cover over the posts just like a sleeve. Shim the covers as necessary to hold them plumb. Then, slide the Post Trim Base over the post cover and push it down flush with the deck.

Attach the metal Mounting Brackets to the posts using the corrosion-resistant lag screws included with the kit. Predrill the holes for the 1/4-by-1-1/2-inch screws, using two per bracket and ensuring

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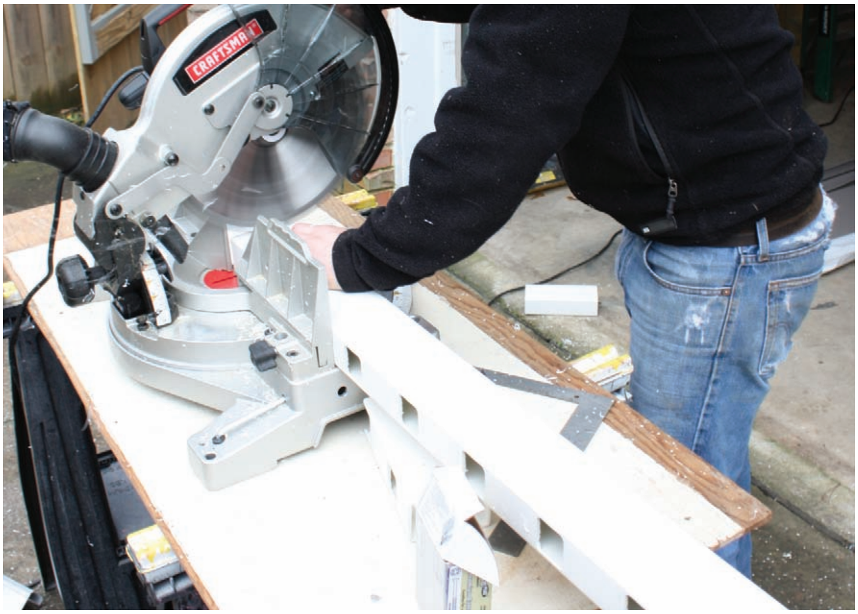
they are mounted level and plumb and centered on the posts. The bottom bracket should be 1-3/4-inch from the deck surface, and the top bracket should be 32-3/8-inch from the surface.

Measure the distance between each two opposing brackets, and if necessary cut the aluminum P-channel Rail Inserts to the appropriate length.

Next, subtract 1-3/8-inch from the cut aluminum P-channel and use this new measurement to cut (if necessary) the corresponding 2-by-4 PVC rail and rail cover to length. The PVC rails are manufactured with uniformly spaced slots to accept the balusters of the rail system, so when trimming the rails to size, cut off equal amounts of


The PVC Rails, the Aluminum P-channel Inserts and the Rail Covers are all cut to length, according to your post layout. When cutting the rails, be sure to keep the routed holes in the rail spaced symmetrically (they accept the balusters).

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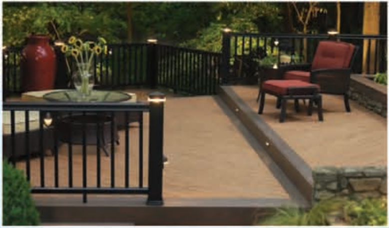

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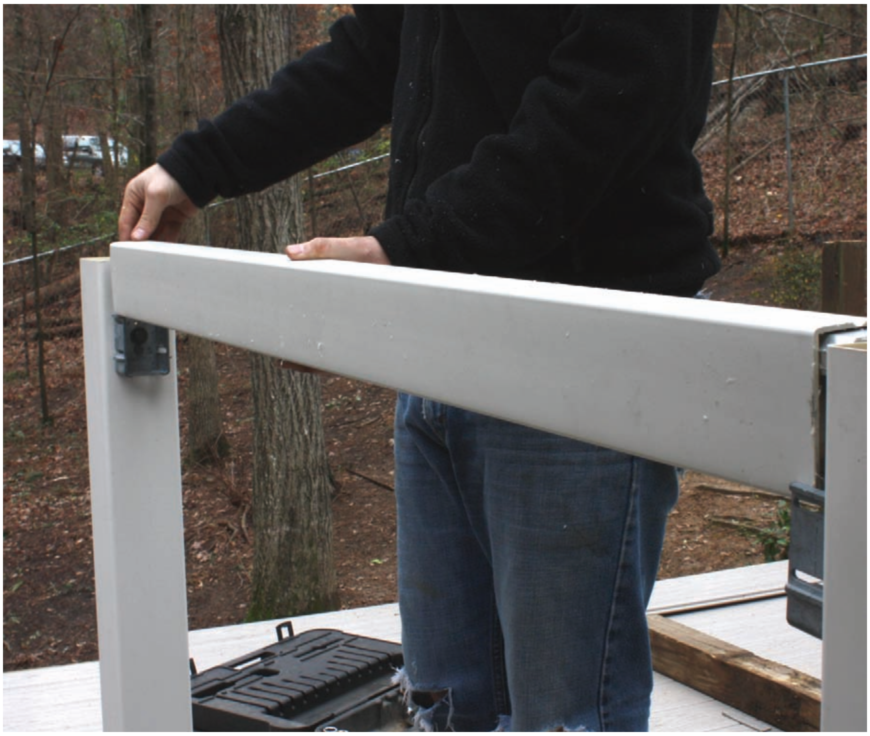

material from each side to maintain symmetrical baluster spacing.

Insert the aluminum P-Channels into the PVC rails. Orientation of the railing components are key because the aluminum insert and the PVC rails must be positioned to accept the balusters. Furthermore, the long legs of the aluminum P-channel must face the inside of the deck. It's always a good idea to test the fit of a railing system before final installation. The top rail includes a PVC Rail Cover, which features a symmetrical chamfered profile for decorative

Test-fit the rails over the mounting brackets before final installation.

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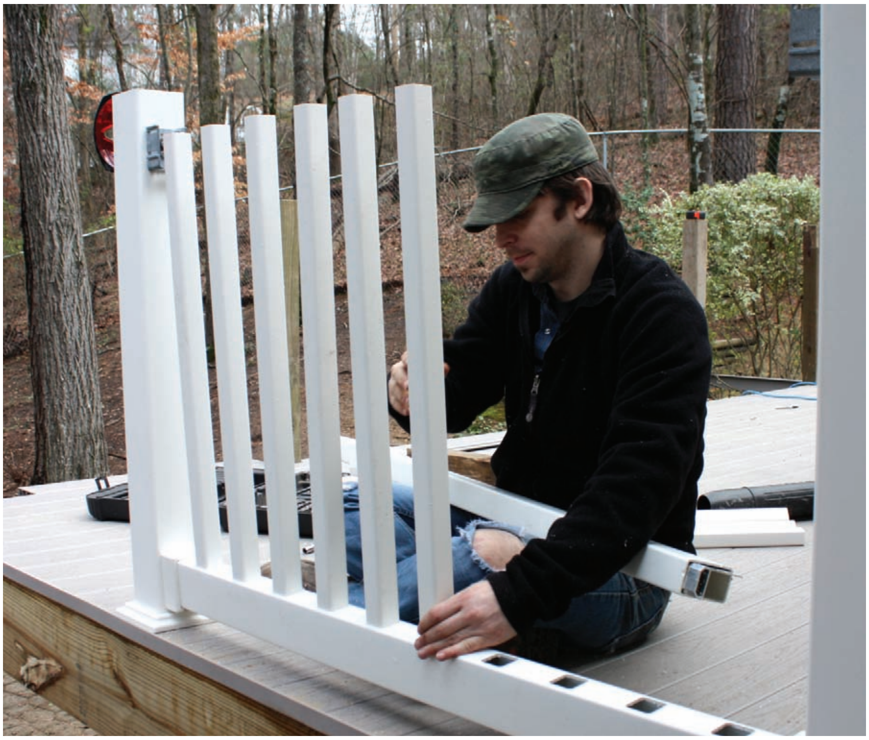
appeal and a comfortable grip. Attach the rail cover to the PVC rail with vinyl adhesive. Then, slip the PVC bracket covers onto each end of each rail.

With the rails assembled, Dunlap first installed the bottom rail onto the brackets with the baluster holes facing upward. The balusters then slip into the routed holes of the bottom rail. Cap the balusters with the top rail, threading them into the holes on the underside of the rail.

At this point, the system should have a little wiggle room to slide the rails to the left or



The balusters simply slip into the routed holes of the rails.

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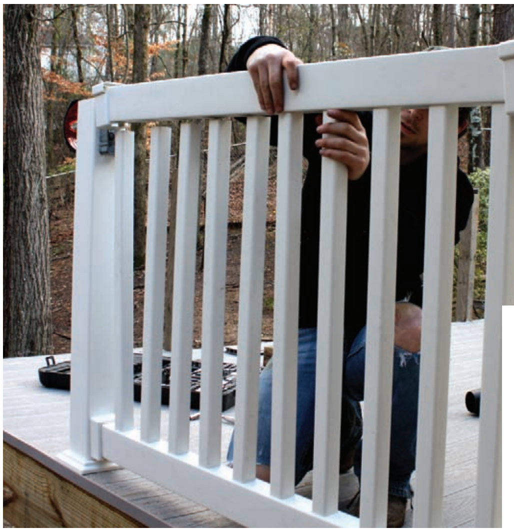
right until the balusters are perfectly plumb. Dunlap then drove No. 10 sheet-metal screws through the mounting brackets and into predrilled holes in the aluminum P-channel inserts. The PVC bracket covers simply slide over the ends of the rails to conceal the exposed metal connection.

The end result is a weather-resistant deck with minimal maintenance requirements and a strong, complementary railing system that the Dunlaps will enjoy as long as they own the house. **EHT**

Editor's Note: For more information on Genova Decking and Railing products, visit www.genovaproducts.com.



The top rail mounts over the balusters, followed by a rail cover for a comfortable hand grip.

Post caps and bracket covers give the rail system a uniform, finished appearance.

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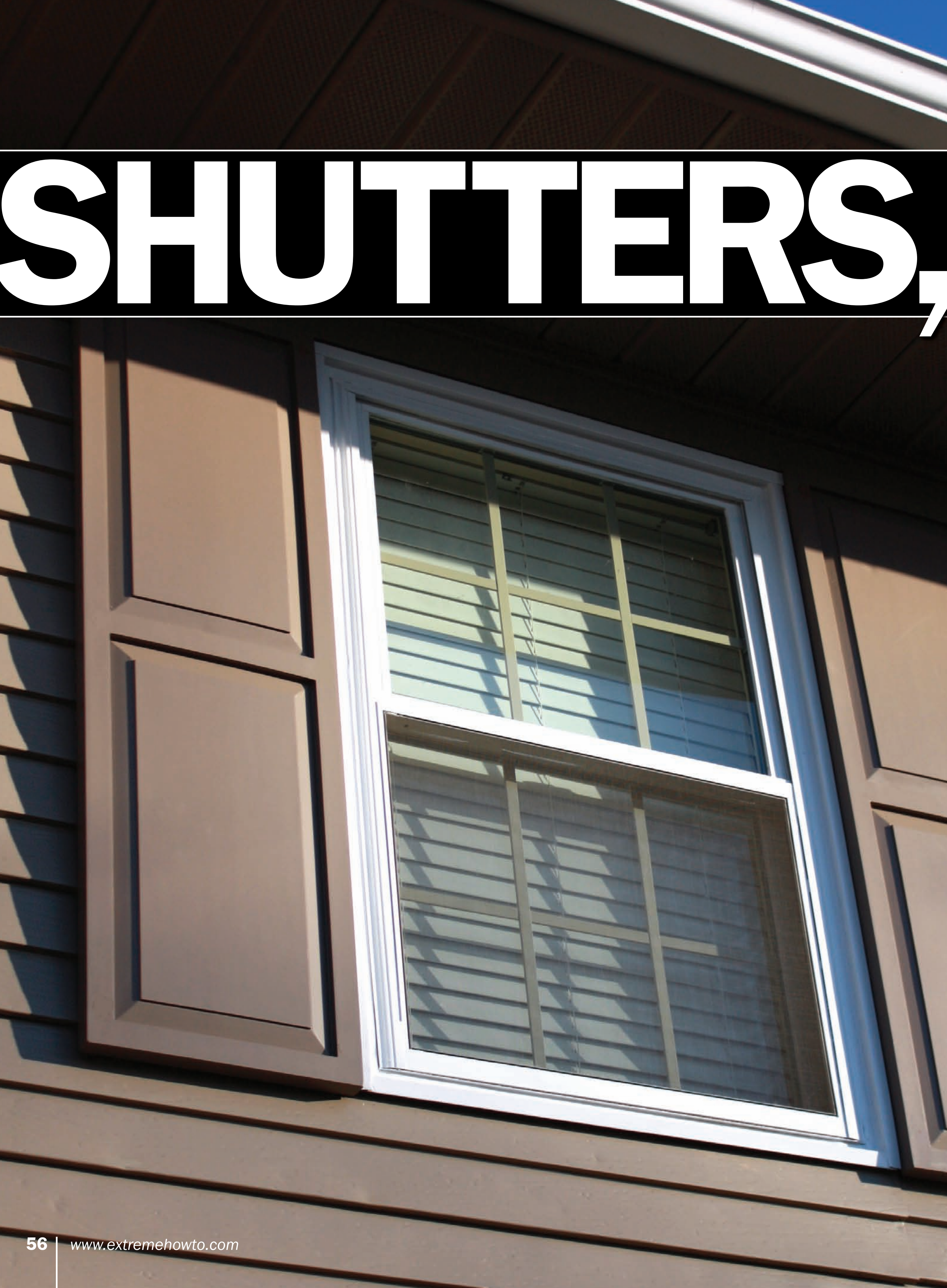
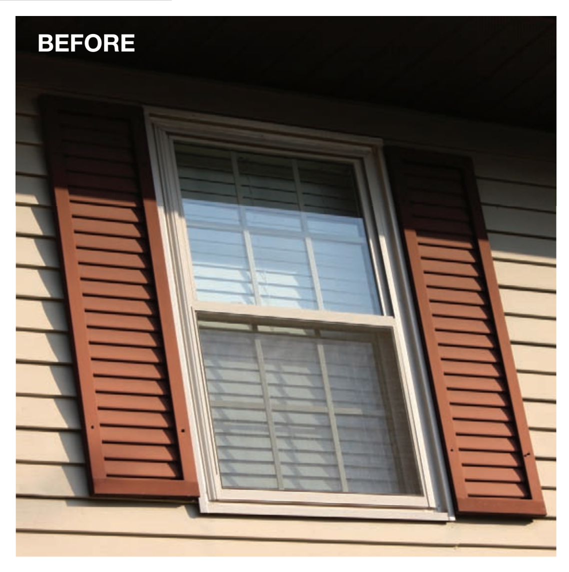


TO THINK



Replacing your shutters? Consider installing decorative urethane shutters for years of low-maintenance curb appeal.

A home makes its first impression through its curb appeal. When repainting the exterior siding and trim of *EHT*'s current project house, we decided to boost its curb appeal by replacing the old, hollow aluminum shutters with solid urethane shutters that had a more contemporary style.

Although aluminum holds up to weather fine, over the years the painted shutters had severely faded and become dull with chalky residue. We would have to remove them from the house, even if it was just to repaint them. Since this was the case, we took the opportunity to replace them completely, opting for a raised double-panel design rather than the louvered look of the old shutters.

By Matt Weber

Aside from the stylistic update, urethane shutters offer several other material advantages. Solid urethane shutters are insect-resistant, will not bow or fade over time, and they're more resilient to weather exposure than wood or polypropylene shutters. Urethane is a very lightweight material, making the new shutters easier to lift and install than the old ones, and the material is easy to drill and screw.

We selected three pairs of shutters from Fypon, a company which offers 123 different sizes and styles of shutter and shutter

We removed the old shutters by simply backing out the mounting screws. Be sure to have a plan to support the weight of the old shutters.

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accessories, such as quarter-round, elliptical or transom accent pieces to extend the height and decorative appeal of the shutters. The over-the-window clearance of our project house didn't leave room for trim pieces, but the replacement shutters alone went a long way toward providing a fresh, modern look to the house façade.

PAINTING AND DESIGN OPTIONS

The shutters we chose had a smooth white finish, although Fypon also offers wood-grain as

The shutters were painted with a high-quality acrylic latex paint.

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a finish option. All Fypon shutters can be painted any color or stained, and will not chip or peel, since the material cannot absorb water. Whereas we chose a double-pane design, you can also choose from raised triple-panel shutters, traditional louvered shutters, and louvered shutters with center rails.

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Use a foam roller to achieve a smooth, uniform paint finish free of bristle marks.

Elevating the shutters on a few Painter's Pyramids provided easy access to paint the edges.

To add color to the shutters, I applied a high-quality acrylic latex paint to tone the shutters just a shade darker than the gray-beige tone used for the house siding. A 2-inch brush works well to work paint into the recessed channels of the raised panels. For the face of the shutters, I applied the paint with a foam roller. The foam

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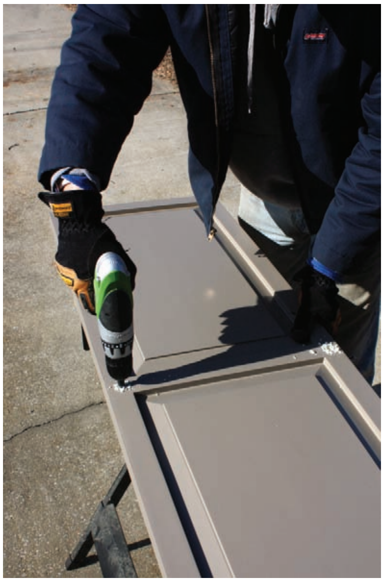
roller does a great job of eliminating bristle marks for a very uniform paint finish. Apply two coats and allow drying time between each.

HOW TO REPLACE

While the shutters were drying, I pulled the old shutters off the house, which were held with a few 2-1/2-inch aluminum screws fastened through the siding into the house sheathing. If removing old shutters, make sure you have a plan to support the weight of the shutters once you remove the fasteners. Once removed, I sealed the old screw holes in the siding with silicone sealant to keep out any insects.

To mount the new shutters, I first used a countersink bit to pre-drill holes for the fasteners. These shutters were 48 inches high, so I predrilled six screw holes per shutter, two at the top, middle and bottom.



Pre-drill countersink holes so the screw heads will be recessed below the surface of the shutters.

I used 2-1/2-inch self-starting wood screws as fasteners.

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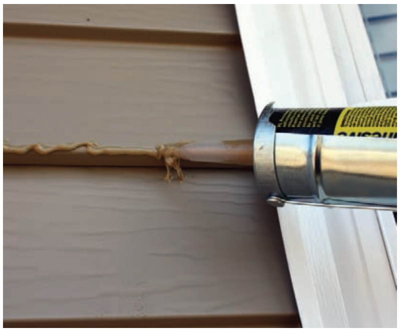

For a belt-and-suspenders approach, I also glued the shutters in place with polyurethane construction adhesive.

In addition to fastening with screws, I glued the shutters to the siding using polyurethane construction adhesive. Due to the beveled profile of the aluminum siding, I ran a bead of adhesive only along the ridges of the siding that would contact the rear of the shutter.

Before installing, I measured the windows and then the shutters. I then marked the shutters at the top and bottom with some faint pencil marks that indicated where the shutter should be installed along the window casing to be perfectly

The urethane shutters are light enough for one man to install. Just zip in a couple of screws at the top to support the weight, and that's enough to hold the shutter in place while you finish the installation.

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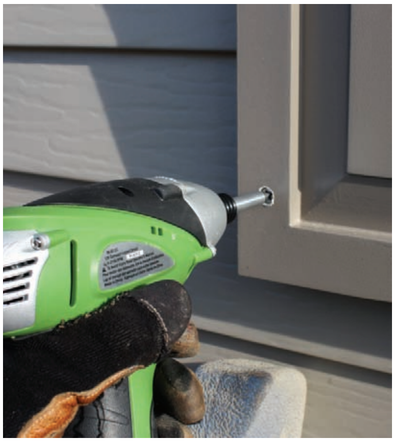
centered against the window.

Due to the light weight of the shutters, I was able to install them alone, even while working on top of a ladder. Holding the shutter in place with one hand, I drove a couple of 2-1/2-inch self-starting aluminum screws into two of the predrilled holes. Fasten from the top downward.



Make sure the screw heads lie below the surface of the shutter, leaving room for the wood filler to follow.

Wood putty tinted similar to the shutter paint will make it easier to conceal the dried filler when repainting.

Two screws is enough to hold the shutter in place while you drive the remaining fasteners, moving the ladder if necessary. It's important to use self-starting screws so the tips feed easily into the siding on the opposite side of the shutter and bite solidly into the house sheathing.

Repeat this procedure for each remaining shutter—it's a

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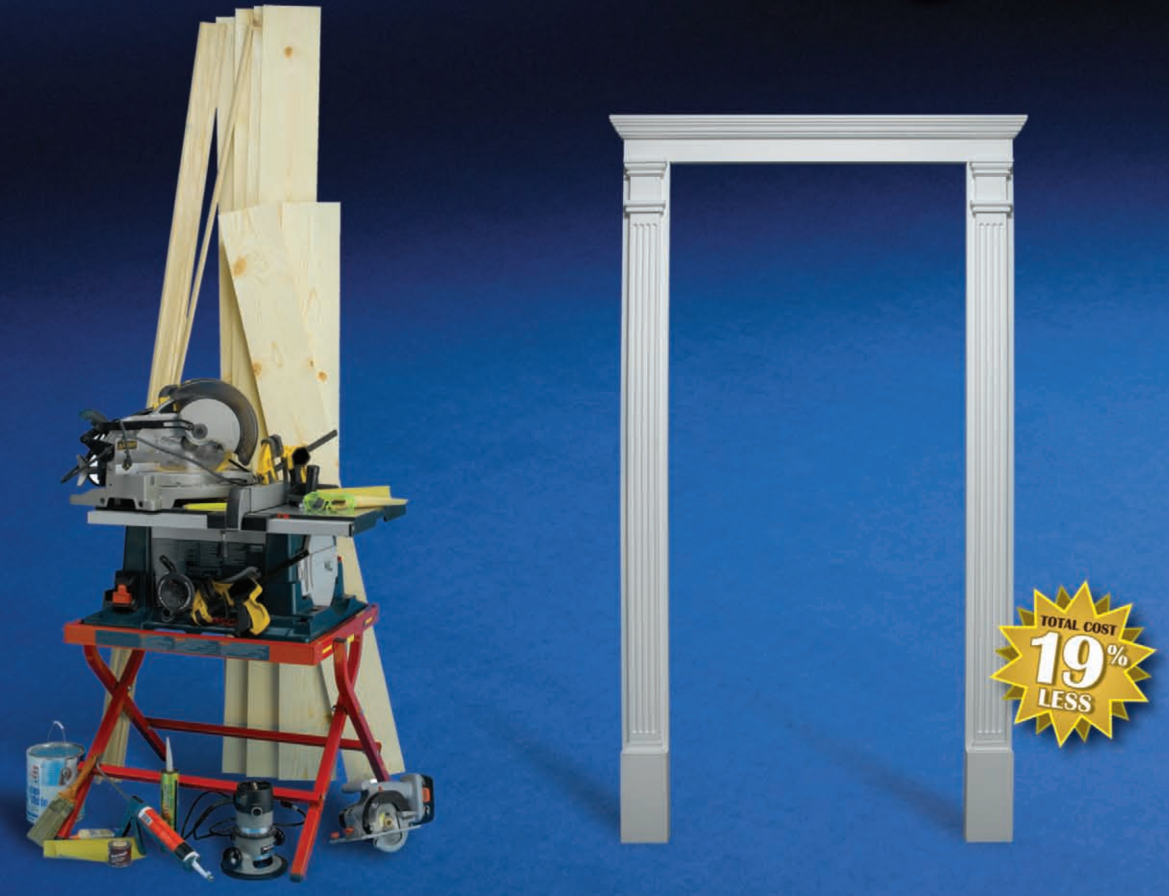

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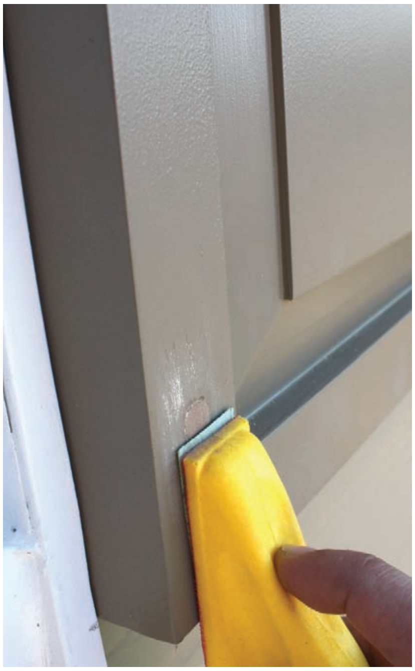
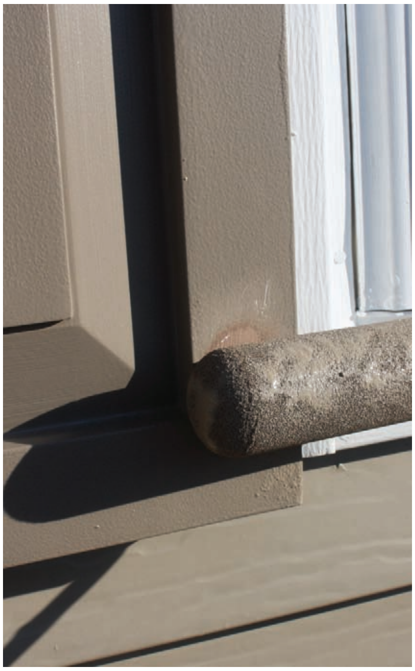
fairly easy job. The heads of the screws were recessed in the countersunk holes I had drilled. So, once all the shutters were installed, I filled all the fastener holes with plastic wood filler that had a similar tint to the paint color. Once the filler cured, I carefully sanded the patched spots and touched up the paint with a foam roller.

Painting time aside, it only took an afternoon to replace the shutters, and the result was a snappy enhancement to the exterior décor that would last for years with minimal maintenance from the homeowner. **EHT**

Editor's Note: ***For more information on Fypon shutters, millwork and trim products, visit www.fypon.com.***



Once dry, sand the wood putty smooth with the shutter.



The final step is to touch up the patched screw holes with paint.

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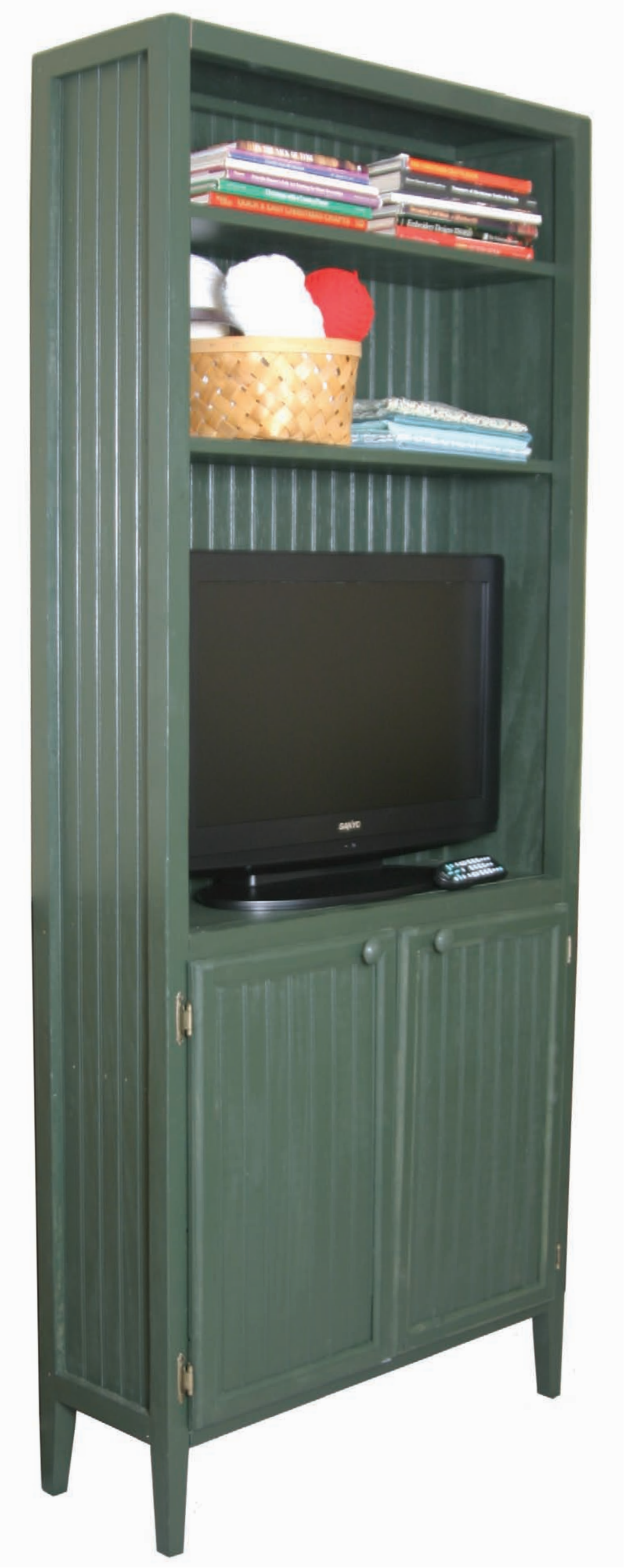

BUILDING A BEADBOARD BOOKCASE

Need a new place to keep books, a television or hobby supplies? **Then build one.**

By Monte Burch

I call it the "Hobby Lobby room." My wife, Joan, calls it her sewing room. In any case with the kids grown and gone, it's a bedroom turned into a room for her hobbies and occasional guests. She also likes to watch some of the crafting, sewing and quilting shows on television, so we looked at all the prefab, put-together TV cabinets available in stores. I made the mistake of saying I could build it better and cheaper.

Joan wanted something to hold a TV and also store her collection of craft books, magazines and other crafting and sewing supplies. I decided to build a dual-purpose case from stock construction lumber, including white pine or fir 2-by-4's and 1-by-12's, except for the back. I really didn't want to use pine plywood, and then I saw a sheet of beadboard at the lumber yard while sorting through wood for the frame. Beadboard is decorative, yet fairly economical and can provide a good strong back to help hold the casework together. Joan wanted to paint the case a dark color, the in-look in the decorator stores these days, and chose a dark green to match the wallpaper border in the room.

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First step is to rip stock construction 2 x 4's into 1-5/8-inch widths to create the leg-posts.

LEGS AND FRAME

First step is to obtain the materials. The legs and frame are ripped from stock 2-by-4's, and it will probably take some sorting through the lumber pile to obtain straight lumber with little or no knots. Minor defects can be covered with wood filler, but loose knots and major cracks can't be patched.

Rip the stock 2-by-4's into 1-5/8-inch thicknesses. Two 8-footers will make the four long leg posts and the four top and bottom cross-pieces. Once ripped, smooth the sawn edges and cut the posts to 1-1/2 inches, creating 1-1/2-by-1-1/2-inch posts. A jointer, hand plane or power planer can be used for this chore. Rip the front and back cross-pieces in the same manner.

Using a jointer or planer, smooth and cut the sawn edges to create a 1-1/2 inch width.

Mark the location of the top end of the tapered legs, or 6 inches up from one end of each leg post. Using a plunge router and a 3/8-inch straight bit, rout a dado from this mark to the

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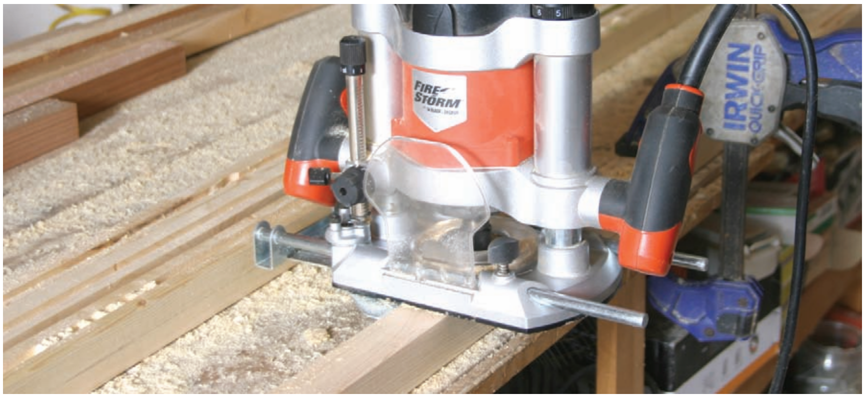
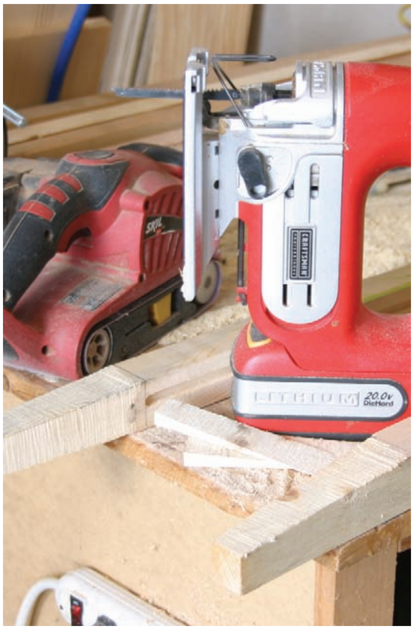


With a plunge router, route a 1/4-inch deep by 3/8-inch wide dado on the inside surfaces of the leg posts. Stop the dado where the bottom leg ends will be tapered.

end of the leg post. Then cut off the leg posts to 78 inches and cut the 8-1/2 inch side cross-pieces to length from the remainder of the board. Using a small square, mark the bottom front and inside edge of each leg post at one inch, then cut the tapered feet using a saber saw. Using a belt sander, smooth up the cut edges, and then finish-sand.



Cut the tapered bottom leg ends and then cut dadoes in the side cross-pieces to match.

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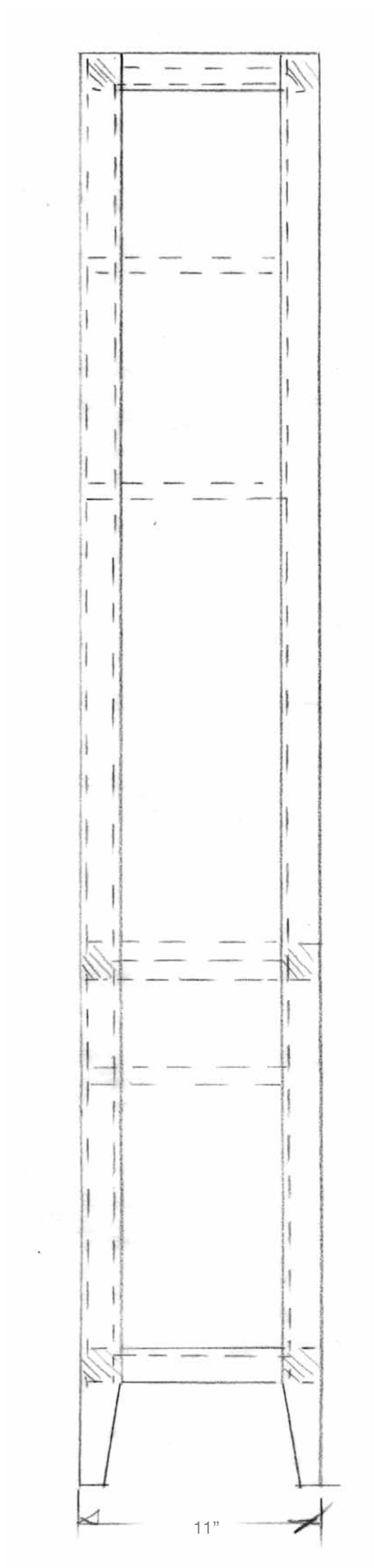
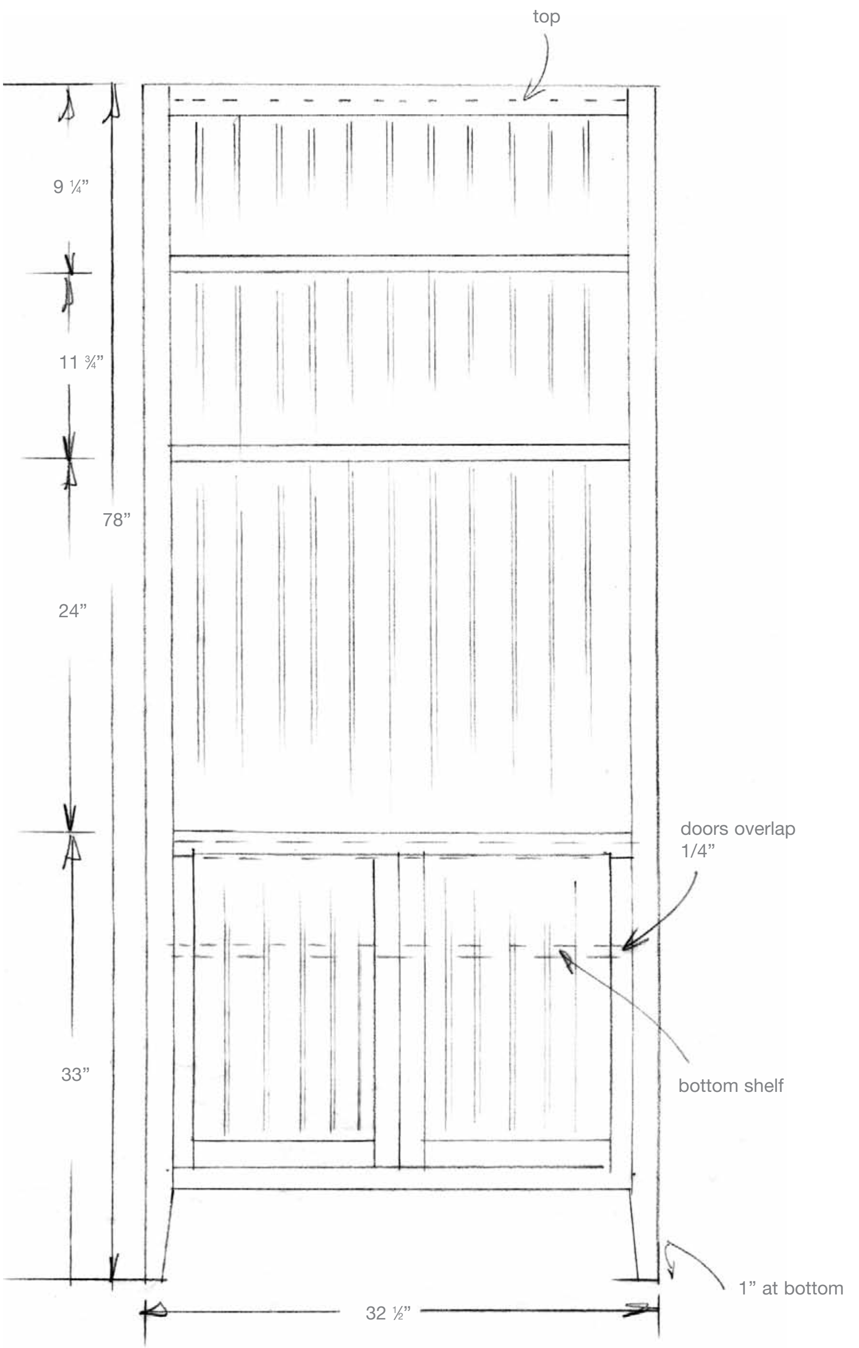
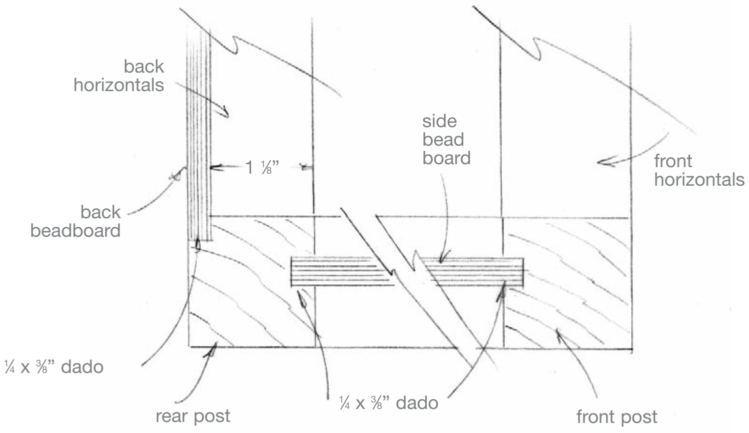
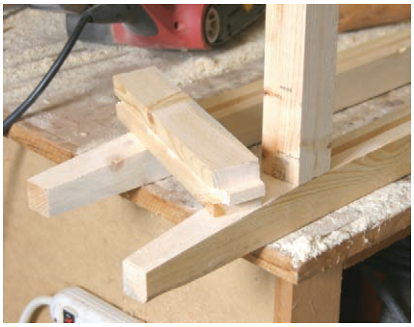

11"


top
9 ¼"
11 ¾"
78"
24"
doors overlap
1/4"
33"
bottom shelf
1" at bottom
32 ½"


back
horizontals
1 ⅛"
side
bead
board
front
horizontals
back
beadboard
¼ x ⅜" dado
rear post
¼ x ⅜" dado
front post

Using a belt sander, smooth up the cuts on the leg ends.



The side cross-pieces have tenons cut in them to fit into the leg post dadoes. Cut using a tenoning jig in a table saw, a radial arm saw or by hand with a back saw.

BEADBOARD COMPONENTS

Place the beadboard on two sawhorses with 2-by-4 spacers underneath. Set a circular saw blade to cut just through the beadboard. Cut crosswise at 6 feet. This will create the back and two sides, with the short cut-off end piece used for the doors. Cut the side beadboard pieces to width and length. The sides fit into the dadoes in the leg posts and side cross pieces.

Try-fit all parts of one side, place glue in the dadoes and assemble the pieces. Clamp, making sure the assembly is held square, and leave overnight.

Cut the beadboard crossways at 6 feet to create the back and side pieces. Rip the bead board sides to width.

Assemble the opposite side in the same manner.

It's much easier to paint the pieces before final assembly. Paint both the inside and outside of the assembled side frames. Lay the side frames together and mark the inside back edges of each. Then, using a plunge router, cut a 1/4-inch deep by 3/8-inch

Glue the beadboard into the dadoes in the leg posts and side cross-pieces. Make sure the assembly is square and clamp overnight.

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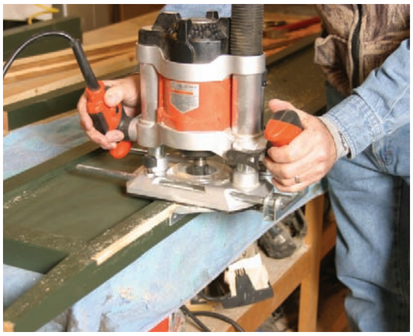


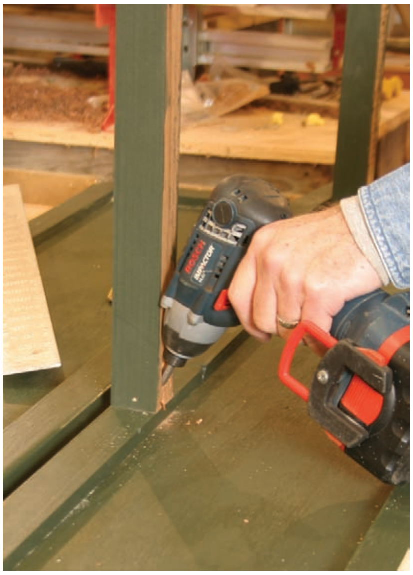
Using a plunge router, cut a 1/4 x 3/8-inch rabbet in the back inside edges of the leg posts stopping at the legs.

rabbet on each inside back edge, stopping at the top of the feet.

FASTENING THE CASING

Much of the remainder of the case is assembled with pocket screws, using a Kreg Pocket Screw Set.

Cut the front cross-pieces to length, paint them and drill the pocket holes using the Kreg jig and bit. Place towels or other soft padding on a smooth, flat surface and fasten the front

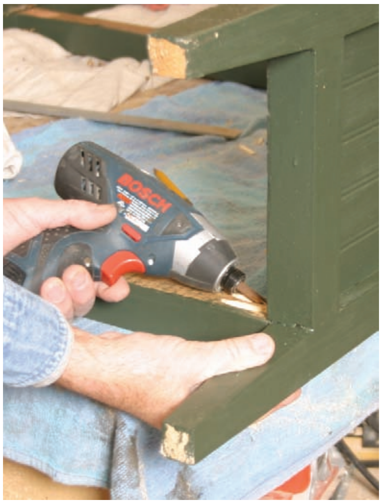


Paint all pieces and fasten the front cross-pieces to one side using pocket screws.

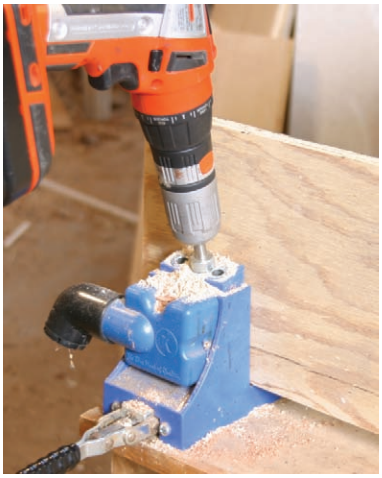
cross-pieces to one side using pocket-hole screws. Fasten the opposite side in place in the same manner. Note that you are assembling the case front-side down, so make sure you keep the jointing edges flush on the front.

Cut the bottom, center shelf and top to the correct length and width. Then, drill the pocket holes using the Kreg jig. Position these components and anchor with pocket screws.

Rip the back cross-pieces to 1-1/2 inch thickness, and fasten them in place with pocket-hole screws from the bottom to the center shelves and top. Drive No. 8 finish nails from the leg



Lay the assembly on a smooth flat surface protected with old towels and fasten the ends of the front cross-pieces to the other side with pocket screws.



The Kreg Pocket Screw Set comes with pocket-screw jig, drill bit and screws, making it easy to drill precise pocket screws and anchor parts together.

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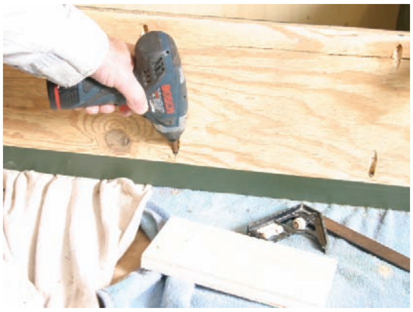
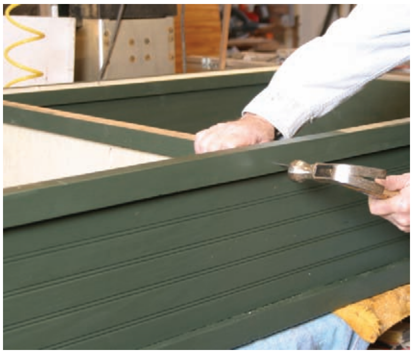
posts into their ends. Set the nail head below the surface and apply wood putty.

Cut the bottom and two upper shelves to width and length. Note they extend from inside the front side leg posts, past the back side leg posts to the rabbet in the back leg posts. These must be notched to fit around the back leg posts. Fasten in place with No. 6 finish nails through the side beadboard into the ends of the shelves.



The bottom, top and center shelves are anchored in place with pocket screws driven into the front and cross-pieces.

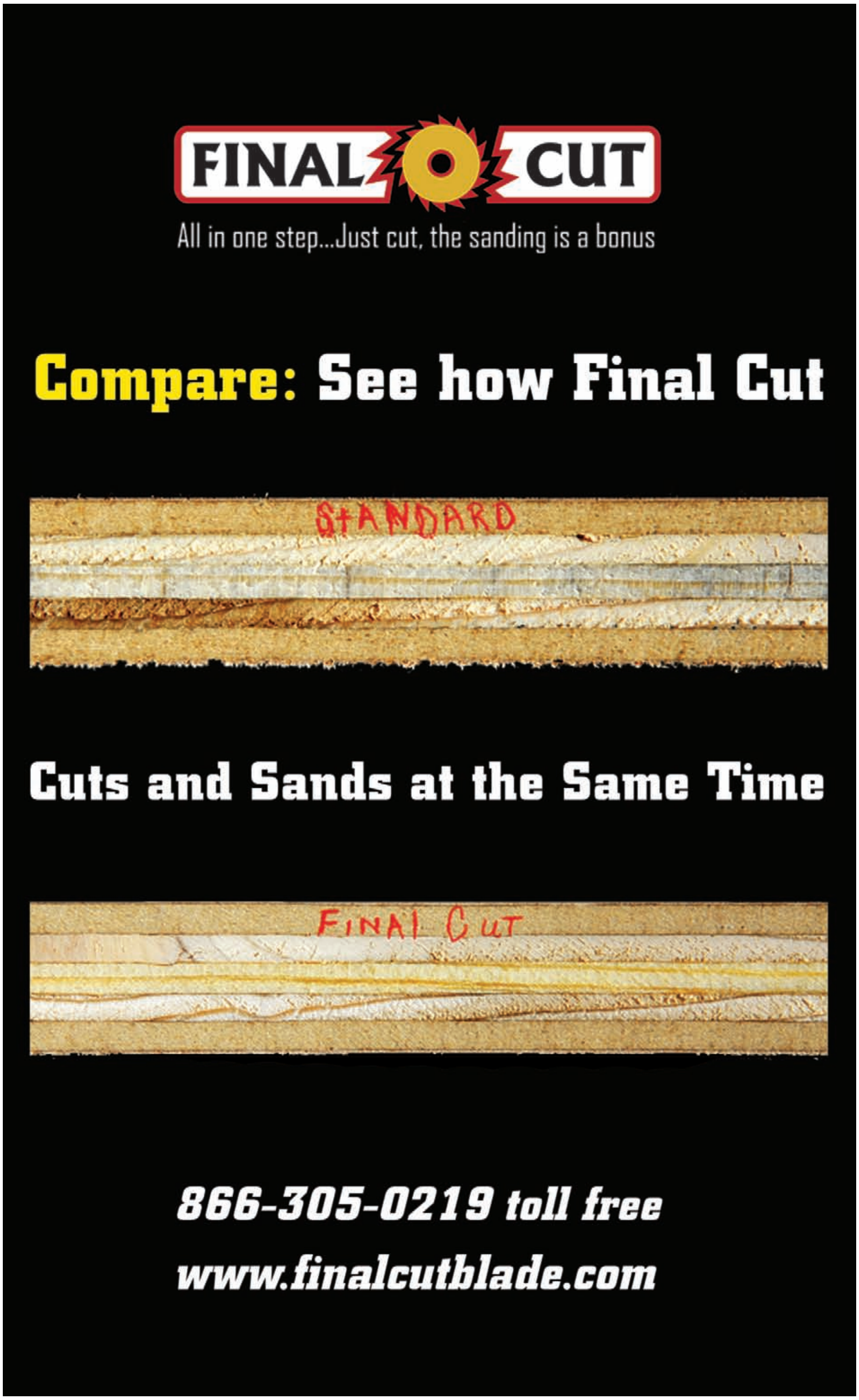


The back cross-pieces are fastened in place with pocket screws from shelves and with No. 8 finish nails into the leg posts. Set and fill the nail holes.

Cut the back to correct width, paint it and fasten it down on the back cross-supports and into the side rabbets. Use No. 4 cement-coated nails or one-inch staples with an air-fastener. Use a carpenter's square to make sure the assembly is square. Also fasten the back to the back edges of the bottom and upper shelves.

DOOR CONSTRUCTION

The doors are frame-and-panel style, using beadboard for the panels. The frames consist of 1-1/2 inch rails and stiles. The rails and stiles are joined using a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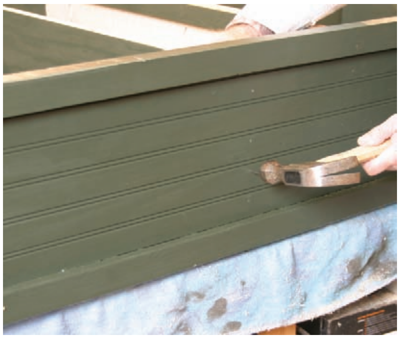
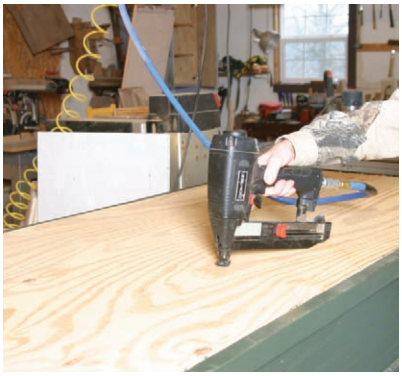
CMT rail-and-style bit in a router table. The bit used is a one-piece bit, rather than a two-piece with separate bits for both rails and stiles. Simply set the bit at the correct height for the stiles, cut those, then set the bit lower for the rails and cut those to match. The set automatically cuts the dadoes on the inside for the panels. The beadboard used for the panels, however, is 3/8-inch thick and the bit cuts 1/4-inch dadoes. The back edges of the beadboard panels must be cut down 1/8-inch. This can be done using a table saw, with guard and splitter removed and cutting the pieces on edge. Or use a belt sander, with the panels clamped to a surface. A hand plane can also be used for this chore.



The inside bottom and upper shelves are fastened in place with No. 8 finish nails through the beadboard sides.



The back is installed using 1" staples. Make sure the assembly is square before installing the back.

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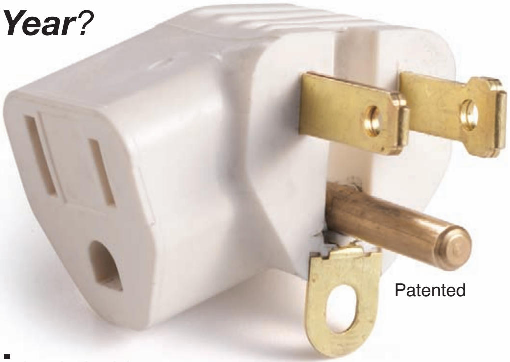

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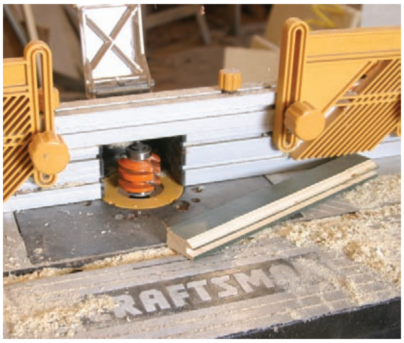
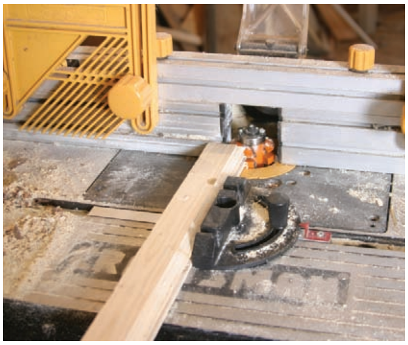
Place a panel in a stile, add another stile and apply glue to the dadoes in the ends. Then tap the rails in place over the panel ends and into the dadoes of the stiles. Clamp securely, making sure the assembly is square. Assemble the other door in the same manner. Install the doors using self-closing hinges.

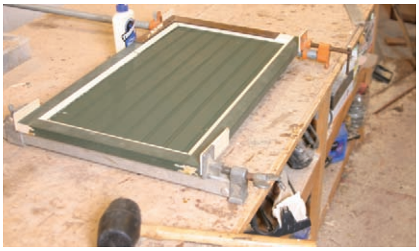
Fill any holes, including nail holes, and paint any parts needed (or repaint any scratches created). Add knobs to the doors for a final detail to your new beadboard bookcase. **EHT**



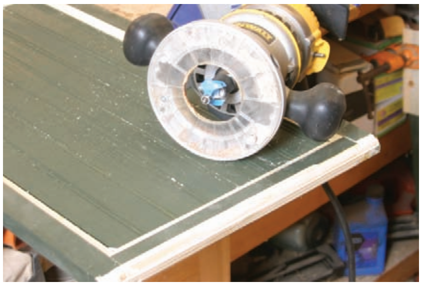
The doors are frame-and-panel style. A CMT frame-and-panel bit in a router table is used to create the stiles and rails.



You don't have to change bits to create the separate rails and stiles.



The beadboard panels are cut and their back edges routed or sawn to create a 1/4-inch thickness, then the doors glued together and clamped.



The outside edges of the doors are routed with a round-over bit.

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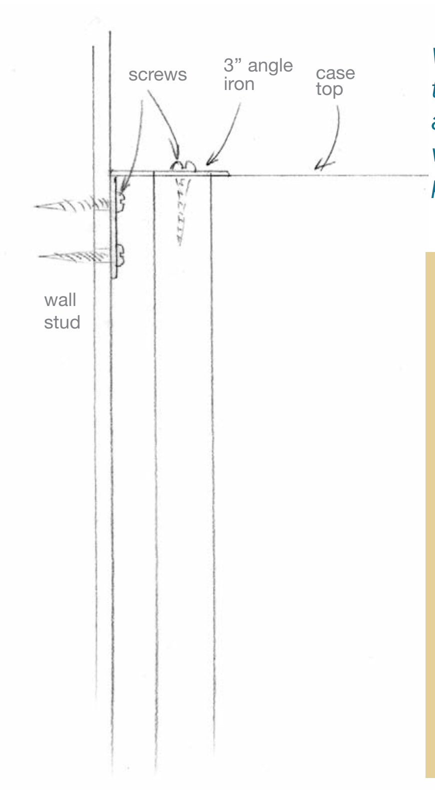

WARNING: If you have small children in the home, or the bookcase is sitting on carpet or an uneven floor, it should be anchored to the wall studs at the top with angle braces. Measure and mark the case height on the wall, and then fasten the braces to the studs with screws. Slide the case in place and drive screws through the braces down into the case top.

MATERIALS LIST

- **Leg posts, 1-1/2x 1-1/2 x 78”, 4 req’d.**
- **Side cross-pieces, 1-1/2 x 1-1/2 x 8-1/2”, 4 req’d.**
- **Side beadboard, 3/8 x 8-1/2 x 69-1/2”, 2 req’d.**
- **Front cross-pieces, 1-1/2 x 1-1/2 x 29-1/2”, 3 req’d.**
- **Rear cross-pieces, 1-1/2 x 1-1/8 x 29-1/2”, 3 req’d.**
- **Top, bottom and center shelf, 3/4 x 8 x 29-1/2”, 1 each req’d.**
- **Bottom and upper shelves, 3/4 x 9-1/4 x 30”, 3 req’d.**
- **Back, beadboard, 3/8 x 30 x 78”, 1 req’d.**
- **Door stiles, 3/4 x 1-1/2 x 25”, 4 req’d.**
- **Door rails, 3/4 x 1-1/2 x 13”, 4 req’d.**
- **Door panels, bead board, 3/8 x 13 x 22”, 2 req’d.**
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Staining Hardwood Decks

11 Keys to Successfully Stain Exotic Hardwood for Outdoor Applications

By Dave Barnes

Years ago it seemed like every wood deck was constructed from wood treated good old CCA—copper chromium arsenic—commonly referred to as pressure-treated lumber. Because most of the decks were constructed from the same type of lumber, the products and methods used to stain them were all pretty similar. But not today. Things have changed.

Over the past several years lumber yards have worked to carve their own niches in the marketplace by introducing new species of woods to the market. Such products include Cypress and Mahogany, as well as rainforest hardwoods such as Ipe and Pau-Lope. These products offer an unequaled level of beauty and uniqueness, as well as hardness and durability that far exceeds that of conventional lumber. These characteristics can offer huge advantages to the homeowner. However, they also present a variety of challenges when it comes to staining.

Typically, these types of woods are very dense, making it difficult for stains to be absorbed. Additionally, they can contain a high amount of natural oils, making them resistant to penetration. For these reasons they should be treated a little differently when staining. In this article I've outlined a few basics for you; "11 Keys," as I like to refer to them, that will ensure your project looks like it was stained by a pro.

LET THE WOOD WEATHER

As I mentioned earlier, exotic hardwoods are dense and they can contain a large amount of natural oil that will work to block any wood stain from penetrating. So, let Mother Nature help you out. Once your deck has been built, allow nature's elements to help break down the surface of the wood and dry it out so that stains will be more easily absorbed. The sun, the wind and the rain can do wonders. The more the wood weathers, the easier it will be to stain and the longer your staining job should last.

START WITH A STRIPPER

Even if your wood is brand new and has never been stained, it is still a great idea to start your project by applying a high-quality stain stripper. I recommend Defy Exterior Wood Stain Stripper. Stain strippers are formulated using sodium hydroxide. Sodium hydroxide is an aggressive chemical that can be very effective at breaking down the surface of the wood, opening its pores and making it more absorbent. Remember, the more stain the wood absorbs, the longer your project will last.

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DON'T FORGET TO BRIGHTEN

Yes, you have to brighten the deck too, even if you're working with brand new wood. I know it seems kind of funny, having to brighten new wood, but the brightener will do a couple of things for you. First, it will neutralize the effects of the stripper that you used previously. You should always use an acid brightener after using an alkaline stripper. Second, in a similar fashion to the stripper, the brightener will help to open the porosity of the wood even further. Again, the more stain the wood absorbs, the better.

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TAKE A GOOD, LONG BREAK

Good news: You can take the rest of the day off. Take two if you like. The important thing is to allow the wood to dry out from all of the cleaning. The drier the wood gets, the better it will absorb the stain. So take some time off and let things dry before you start applying the stain.

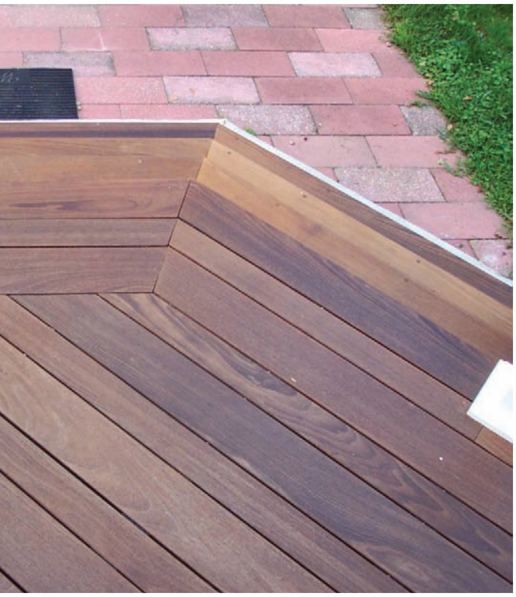
NOT ANY OLD STAIN WILL WORK

Your next big decision is what stain to use. Not just any stain will do. Certain stains have been formulated for better penetration, making them ideal for hardwoods. Many manufacturers offer a specific product in this category, such as Defy Deck Stain for Hardwoods, which is

extremely durable, water-based and eco-friendly. It's easy to use and easy on the environment. Whatever stain you select, make sure that you choose one that has been specifically formulated for use on exotic hardwoods and other difficult-to-penetrate lumber.

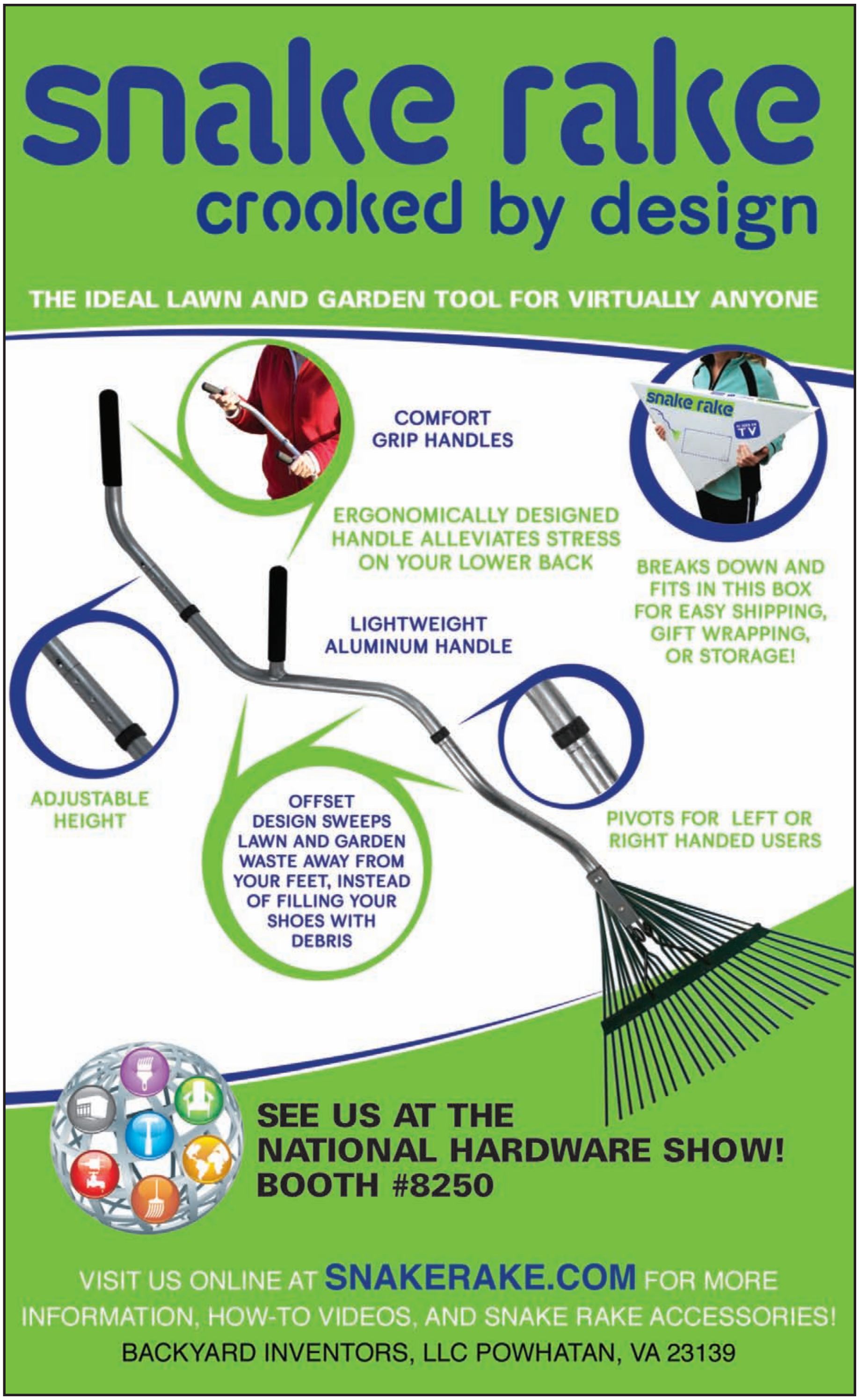
ASK FOR DIRECTIONS

For the female reader, I'm confident that you'll get this next step correct. However, all you men out there should refer to the directions. Everything that you need to know about the product you are going to use is on the back of the can. Take a few minutes before you begin and read it. The directions will make you aware of any particulars to the product that can affect how the job turns out. What is the drying time? How many coats should you apply? How much time between coats? Is there a critical recoat time? There can be any number of things that you can pick up by reading the back of the can. Take a minute to educate yourself.



BRUSHING IS CRITICAL

These next few keys are very important for proper application. First, regardless of how you apply the stain (e.g., rolling, spraying), it absolutely must then be brushed. If you roll it on first, simply back brush it into the wood grain while it is still wet. The same goes for spraying.



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"Why must I go through all that trouble?" you may ask. When you brush the stain, the brush creates a friction on the surface, breaking the surface tension of the wood and working the stain into the pores of the wood. This extra step achieves much better penetration of the stain. The more stain the wood absorbs, the longer the finished project will last before requiring maintenance coats in the future.

WIPE OFF ANY EXCESS

Okay, this one might throw you a little, but again, it's important. If you apply too much stain to the wood (more stain than the wood can absorb), then wipe off the excess. Just as you wipe off excess stain on interior wood, my advice is to do the same if you over-apply stain on exterior hardwoods. The reason is simple. First, for aesthetics; when you apply too much stain, it puddles on the surface and looks bad because of the uneven tone. Second, over time those spots

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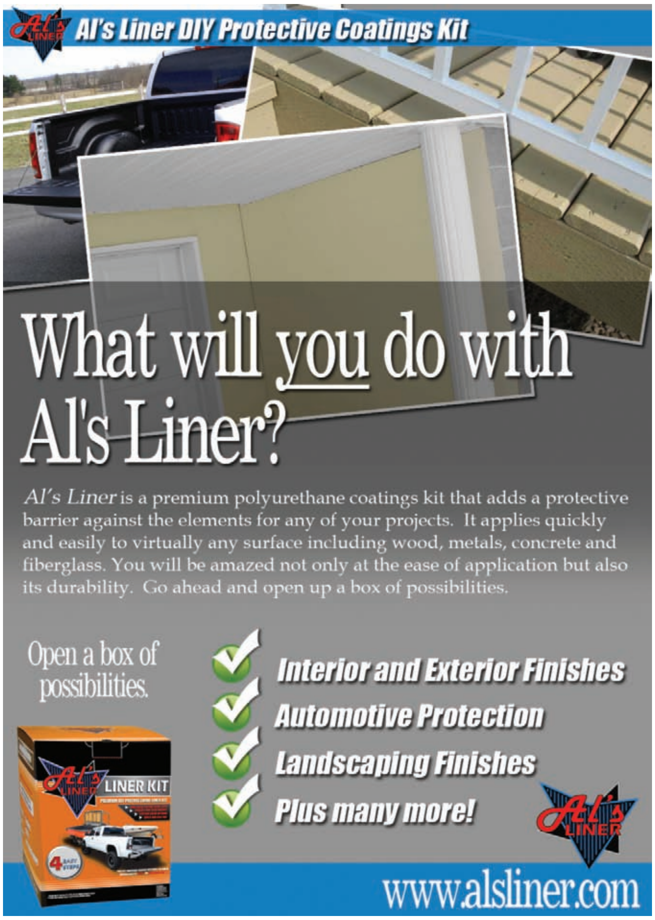
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are likely to flake and peel. Apply only as much stain as the wood can easily absorb.

LET IT CURE

At this point the deck is done. If you've taken your time and followed these steps, you've got a great looking project. Don't mess up now—let things dry. Leave the furniture in the yard and the dog in the house while the stain has a chance to cure. Come back tomorrow and put things back together. You'll be glad that you waited when the stain has cured to a durable finish.

MANAGE YOUR EXPECTATIONS

Now, here's some advice that I hope you accept: Manage your expectations. Remember, you've selected an exotic wood for your deck, a beautiful grade of lumber with extreme durability. Regardless of how good a job you did in every step of this process, you will never get the stain to last as long as it would on a more porous species of wood, such as pressure-treated pine. But also realize that every time you stain it, you'll get a little more life out of your project. Time will continue to help the wood become more porous and as it does, it will absorb stain better each time.

KEEP AN EYE ON THINGS

Last, you've put in a great deal of time and energy to stain your deck the right way, so keep an eye on things. As time goes on and the stain begins to fade and wear down, apply a maintenance coat. Don't let things erode so far that you're forced to strip everything off and start all over. It's pretty easy and doesn't take much time to simply rinse things off and apply a fresh coat of stain.

So that's it—eleven keys to successfully staining exotic hardwoods. Go ahead and try these steps for yourself. See what the results are when you set out on your next project to do it like a pro. You might just surprise yourself. **EHT**

……

Editor's Note: *Dave Barnes is vice president of SaverSystems, manufacturer of Defy wood preservatives. Learn more at www.saversystems.com.*

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The Right Touch for Kitchen Faucets

How to Install a Touch-activated Faucet

By Matt Weber

For an avid cook, the advantages of a touch-activated faucet should be immediately apparent. Imagine your hands are covered with pizza dough or cake icing. You need to wash up, but that means spreading the mess all over the faucet handles. With a touch-activated faucet you can use your forearm, elbow, or that one remaining clean finger to simply tap the faucet anywhere on the spout or handle, which turns on the water without causing a mess. When preparing raw chicken or other foods that carry potentially harmful bacteria, a touch-activated faucet reduces the likelihood of cross-contamination from messy hands or tainted faucet handles, providing a safer, healthier environment for food prep.

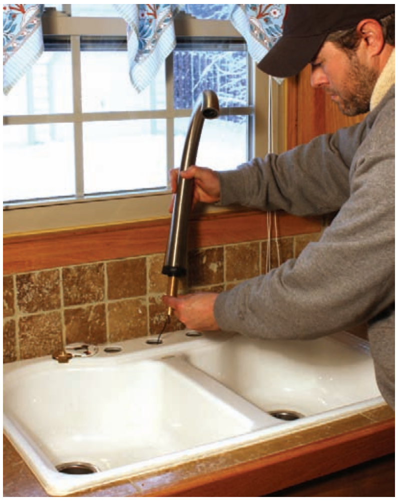
Touch-activated faucets also turn off with a simple tap of the hand, giving the user time to focus on tasks such as washing a dish. To turn back on the water for rinsing, a simple tap reactivates the same water volume and temperature that you've been using.

The faucet shown in this article is the single-lever Pilar Touch pull-down kitchen faucet from Delta, and its Touch$_2$O Technology operates via a battery pack that activates a solenoid when you touch the faucet. You may also use the handle just as you would operate any standard faucet.

FAUCET INSTALLATION

The installation instructions detailed here are specific to a top-mount cast iron sink, but the Pilar faucet can also be installed in an under-mount application or onto thin stainless steel sinks using a stabilizer plate that comes with the faucet kit. Refer to the manufacturer's instructions for your particular circumstance.

First, assemble the spout by attaching the gasket to the spout shank, inserting the shank through the sink hole and securing it with an insulating disk and a mounting nut, which screws over the shank. Make sure the light at the bottom of the spout base—which indicates that



First step is to install the spout fitted with a gasket, securing it with a plastic insulating disk from below and screwing a mounting nut onto the shank of the spout. Tighten the washer over the shank with two jack screws.

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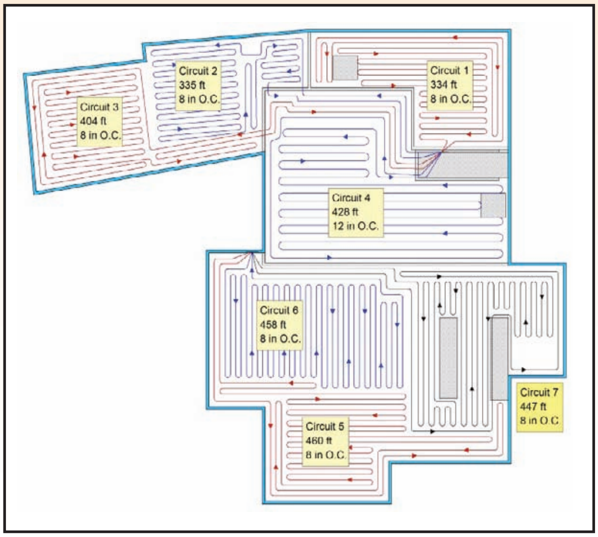
Circuit 3
404 ft
8 in O.C.
Circuit 2
335 ft
8 in O.C.
Circuit 1
334 ft
8 in O.C.
Circuit 4
428 ft
12 in O.C.
Circuit 6
458 ft
8 in O.C.
Circuit 7
447 ft
8 in O.C.
Circuit 5
460 ft
8 in O.C.

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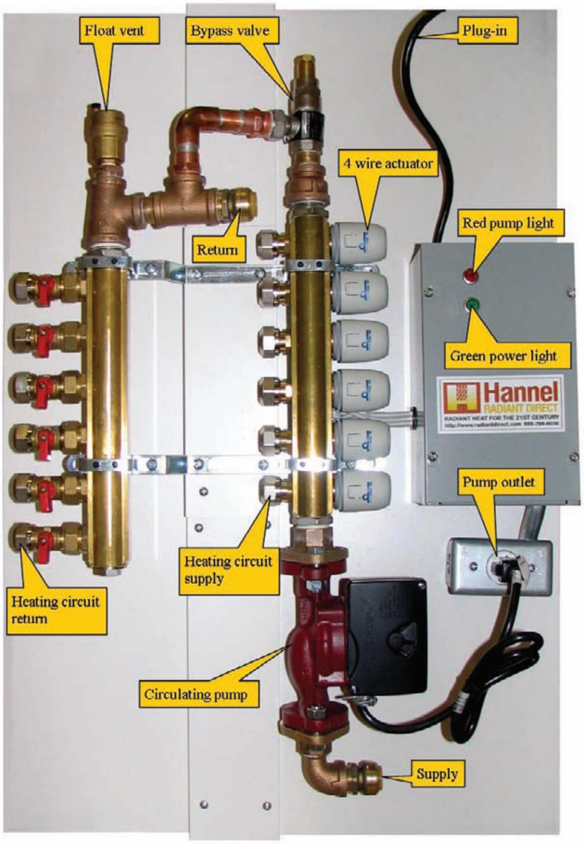
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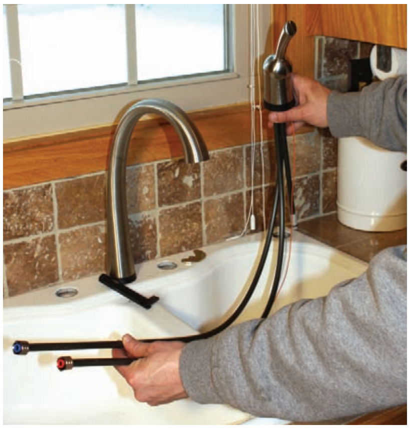
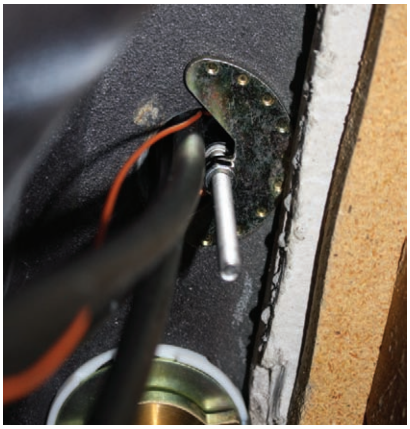
power is live on the solenoid—is facing forward. Tighten the spout to the sink by cinching up a couple of jack screws in the mounting nut.

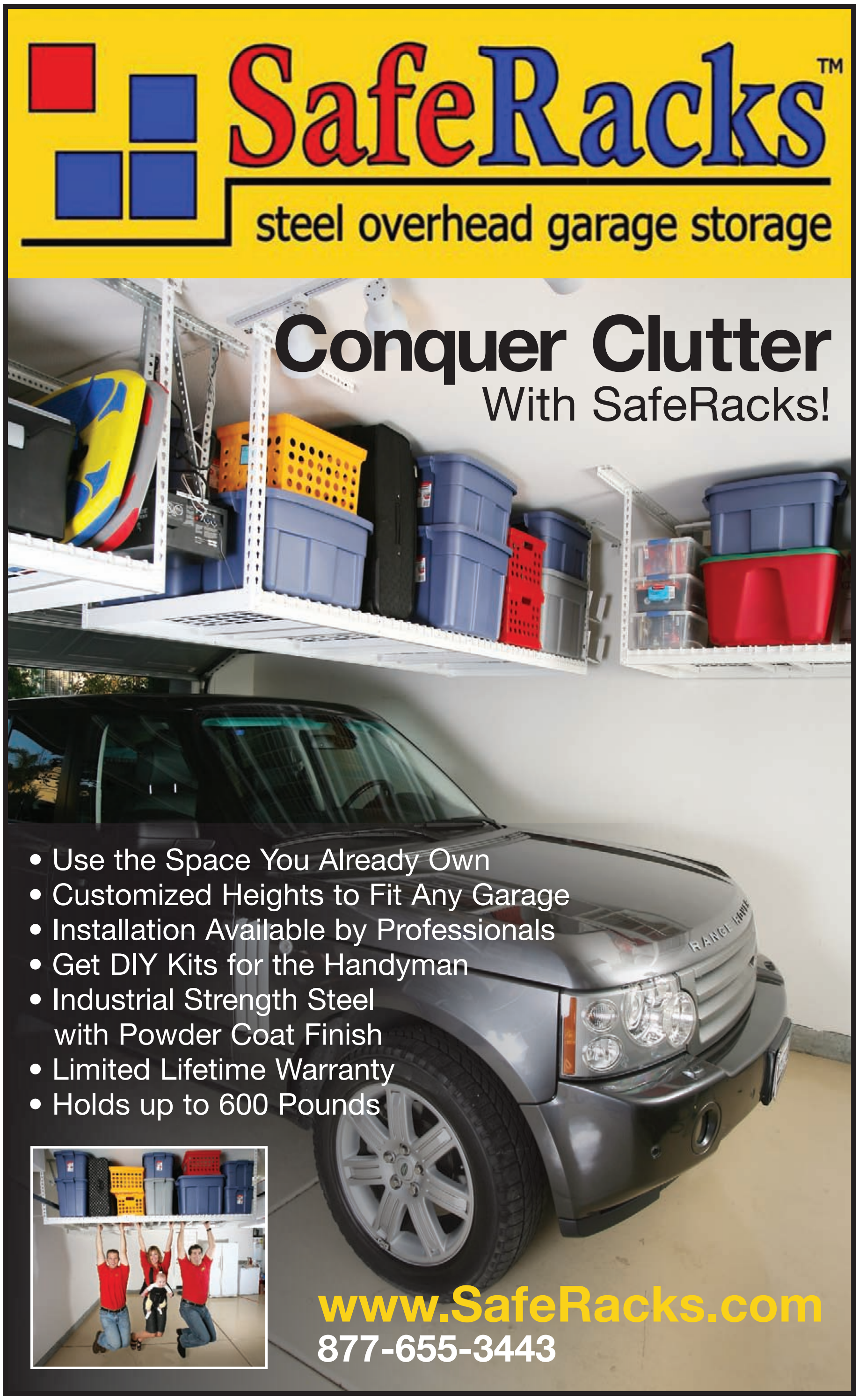
Next, install the valve assembly, which includes the handle and three tubes: the hot and cold water lines, as well as the valve outlet that interfaces with the solenoid. Slip the gasket onto the vale/handle base, then slide all the tubes down into the sink hole. The bottom of the valve/handle includes a long bolt extending downward from the handle that a crescent-shaped bracket fits over. Its crescent shape allows space for the three tubes. The bracket is secured to the bolt using a special deep-well wrench that is included with the faucet kit. Note: If the mounting surface is rough or uneven when installing either the handle or the



Shown is the valve/handle assembly that has three tubes: the faucet's hot and cold water lines, as well as the shorter valve outlet that interfaces with the solenoid.

The crescent shape of the bracket that holds the valve/handle assembly to the sink permits room for the three descending tubes.

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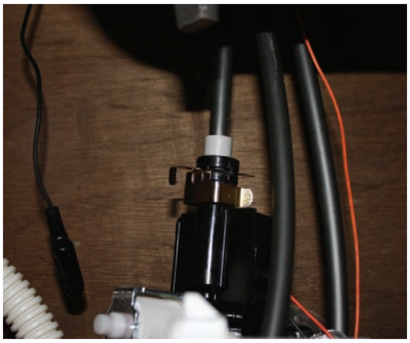
spout, you may need to add a bead of silicone sealant beneath the gasket.

The solenoid assembly slides from beneath the sink onto the valve outlet (the short tube hanging from valve assembly). Make sure the tube is firmly engaged into the mouth of the solenoid and secure it in place with the small, metal retaining clip that inserts into a couple of thin slots on the solenoid inlet.

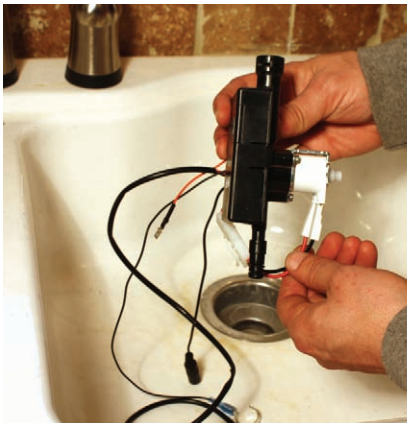
Next, install the pull-down hose, which gives the user the flexibility to extend reach of the water spray to cover the full range of the sink. To do this, insert the plastic hose guide onto the end of the hose, which serves as a convex nose to avoid snags when feeding the hose through the metal spout. Even with the hose guide it took a little patience and a few attempts to successfully guide the hose all the way out the shank bottom without catching on an obstruction. Once accomplished, remove the hose guide and connect it to the bottom of the solenoid with the special cylindrical clip.

WIRE CONNECTIONS

With the major components installed, it's time to wire everything up. First connect the wire on the solenoid assembly to the metal shank of the spout—it simply clamps onto the base with a circular clip. Next, remove the plastic cap from the wire hanging from the shank (leading to the on/off power light on the spout). Connect the shank wire to the corresponding wire extending from the solenoid. No tools are required; the wires connect with a simple snap-together connection.



The solenoid connects to the valve outlet with a special metal clip.



Shown here is the solenoid assembly prior to installation.

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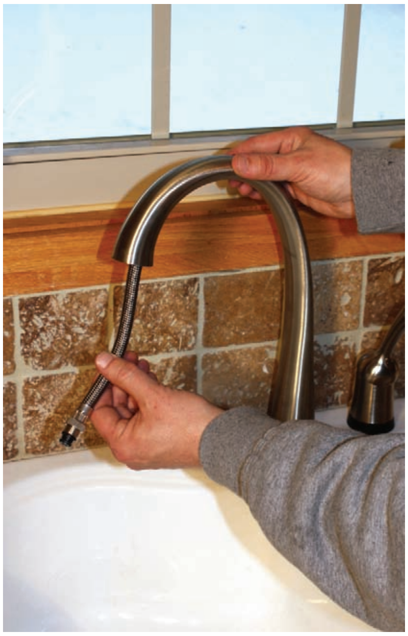
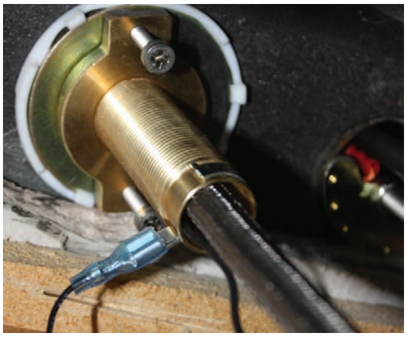


Feed the pull-down hose assembly through the spout and out the bottom of the shank beneath the sink.

Then, mount the battery box by attaching a couple of adhesive Velcro strips. The manufacturer recommends mounting the box as close to the floor as possible. Connect the remaining wire from the solenoid to the battery box. I realize that in print all these wiring connections may sound confusing, but they each have different types of connectors so there's no risk of confusing one wire for another. It's actually very simple.



Attach the circular clip of the solenoid wire to the shank of the spout.

WATER LINE CONNECTIONS

One important difference between the Delta Pilar touch-op faucet and a standard faucet is the inclusion of two small check valves that must be installed between the faucet's hot and cold water lines and the supply stop valves of your house. These two-part components include a small ferrule that inserts into the supply stops, followed by a slightly larger check valve that screws over the ferrule. Make sure all fittings and connections are free of debris. The water lines of the faucet then simply screw over the

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Connect all corresponding wires to the solenoid.

ends of the check valves. Hand-tighten these connections, then tighten an additional turn with a wrench—but do not over-tighten.

SOAP DISPENSER INSTALLATION

The new Delta faucet was being installed on a sink with three holes, but it only actually requires two holes to house the spout and valve/handle assembly. For this reason we chose a model that includes a soap dispenser to fill that third hole. It installs simply with a pump and gasket above the sink threaded into a body beneath the sink that stores the soap. The soap dispenser requires no wires or further connections. It provides a handy place to keep detergent and gives a finished look to the entire installation.

SPRAYER INSTALLATION AND OPERATION

Install batteries in the battery box and turn on the faucet wide open for both hot and cold lines to flush out any debris. Then, pull out the hose assembly from the spout and screw on the

Mount the battery box conveniently out of the way with adhesive Velcro strips. The power supply requires four "C" batteries.

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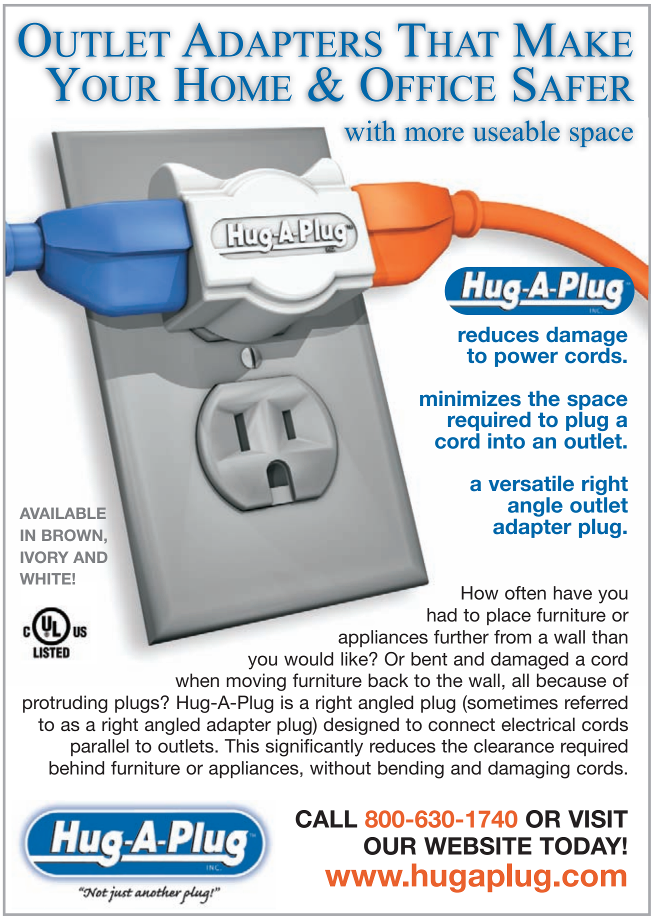

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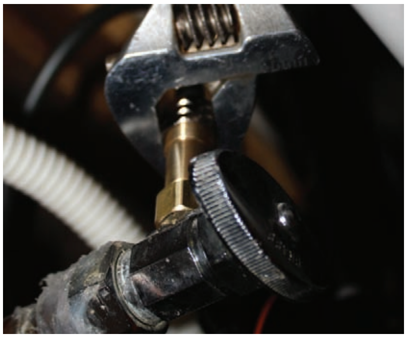
sprayer head. Check all connections for leaks, and the new faucet should be ready for operation.

Although this is only a brief overview of the installation, the manufacturer supplies very detailed instructions and even a step-by-step installation video to clarify any questions. Despite the extra steps involved when compared to a normal faucet install, it's a fairly straightforward procedure that took only about an hour. The result is a handsome new sink that adds to the décor, convenience and functionality of today's modern kitchen. **EHT**

It is important to install check valves between your home's supply stop valves and the hot and cold lines of the new faucet.



Screw the two-part check valves (ferrule and valve) onto the stop valves, but do not over-tighten.

Finally, screw on the sprayer head and check all connections for leaks.

*****Editor's Note:** Learn more about touch-activated faucets at www.deltafaucet.com.*

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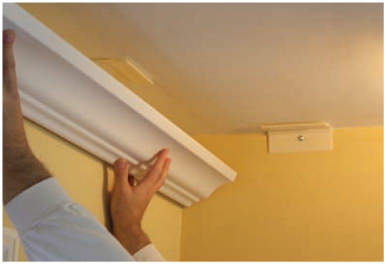
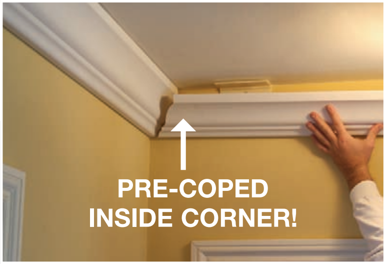


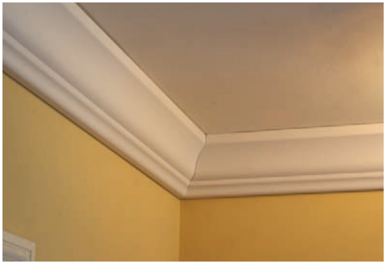
Step 1

Simply attach the L-brackets (normally with 1 screw) approximately every 2-3 feet (no need to find studs).



Step 2

The mouldings are snapped onto the brackets.



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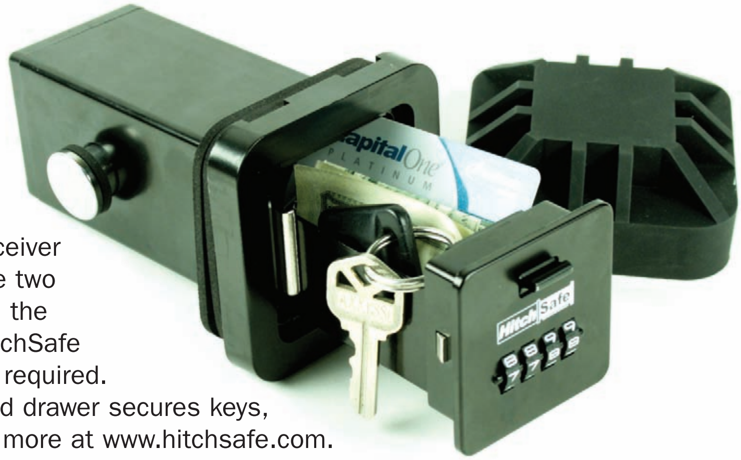

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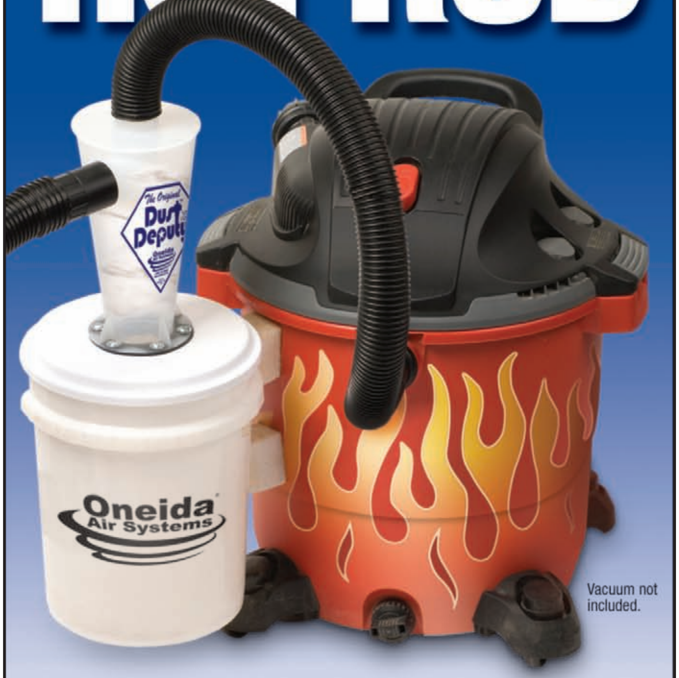

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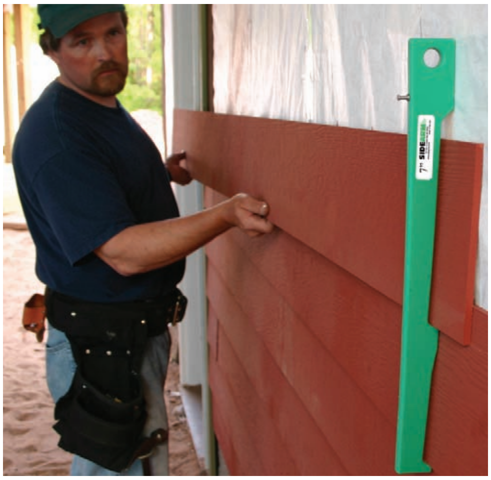

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OSCILLATING SPINDLE SANDER
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$79.99
SAVE $70
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LOT NO. 97869
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REGULAR PRICE $249.99
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SAVE 60%
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SUPER COUPON!
18 GAUGE COMBINATION NAILER/STAPLER KIT
CENTRAL PNEUMATIC CONTRACTOR SERIES
LOT NO. 97525/ 40115
REG. PRICE $34.99
WE CARRY A FULL LINE OF FASTENERS!
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SCHLAGE HIGH-TECH SECUREKEY DOOR LOCKS

Schlage is introducing a new line of SecureKey bump- and pick-resistant residential door locks that will make jobsites more secure and enable home builders to quickly change keys at any time during construction. Unlike traditional pin-and-tumbler locks, which must be removed from the door and disassembled for rekeying, SecureKey locks and deadbolts employ a new high-security design that enables them to be rekeyed in seconds—without removal from the door and without compromising security. Security is actually enhanced through the use of a pick-resistant Grade 1 cylinder and a special locking sidebar that protects against lock bumping. According to Schlage, the SecureKey design is 10 times more secure from key duplication than other rekeyable systems on the market. Rekeying Schlage SecureKey deadbolts and locks is a simple two-step procedure that does not require extra tools. Simply insert the blue Reset Key included with every SecureKey lock, turn it to the 11:00 position and remove the key. Then insert a new blue Reset Key that matches the new keys for the lock, turn it back to the 12:00 position and you're done. The lock is now rekeyed to the new key. Learn more at www.schlage.com.

LATITUDES DECK STONES

Universal Consumer Products announces the addition of Latitudes deck stones to its Spring 2010 lineup. A unique complement to composite decking, Latitudes deck stones allow builders and designers to add creativity and a custom appearance to any deck project. Deck stones are a stylish deck add-on and a perfect alternative for composite decking when deck surface transitions are desired. Latitudes deck stones can be used in virtually any area on the deck and are well suited for outdoor kitchens, grilling areas and raised fire pits. Deck stones can be installed on new or existing conventional wood-framed decks and are capable of supporting typical building loads. The high-strength fiberglass substrate frame attaches easily to joists on 16-inch centers with hidden fasteners. Available in durable 16-inch-square Smoke natural slate or Riverstone granite tiles, deck stones are interlocking and self-draining and do not require mortar. Learn more at www.latitudesdeck.com.

CULLIGAN EZ-CHANGE DRINKING WATER FILTERS

The Culligan drinking-water system is available for mounting under a sink or for icemaker/refrigerator applications. The system's self-contained, disposable EZ-Change filter cartridges are simple to use; just twist on to install, and twist off at replacement time. There is no water mess. Choose from three filtration levels based on water concerns: Basic, Advanced and Premium (which includes chloramine reduction). Replacement cartridges (RC-EZ-1, RC-EZ-3 and RC-EZ-4) are interchangeable with all EZ-style models, allowing you to "step up" to a higher filtration level as needed. The EZ-Change under-sink system includes a filter head with a built-in bracket, EZ-3 filtration cartridge, mounting screws, supply adapter and a lead-free faucet with a built-in electronic cartridge-life indicator and 1/4-inch plastic tubing. This is an environmentally friendly product that also reduces water waste. Learn more at www.culligan-store.com.

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Wood Treated Right™

Dean Johnson, host of TV's long-running home improvement show, *Hometime*

**** See complete warranty details on the website. You'll also find useful construction tips, building plans, and help in locating a nearby dealer.***
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Do-It-Yourself Crack Repair Kit

Is rain becoming a problem for you? If you're tired of mopping up water in your basement every time it rains, try this revolutionary new Do-It-Yourself Kit!

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do it yourself
CRACK REPAIR KIT
CRACK SEAL
Easy Application for Permanent Flexible Injection
For Cracks In: Precast Concrete, Poured Concrete Foundation Walls, Swimming Pools, and more
1.35 kg

CRACK SEAL™ will react with water and bond to concrete cracks to form a flexible, watertight no leak seal.

Therefore, CRACK SEAL™ can even be injected into a wet crack that is still leaking! You don't have to wait for the leaking crack to dry.

Since CRACK SEAL™ can be injected into the cracked concrete from the inside, there's no need for you to dig up your yard or remove any walkways or decks.

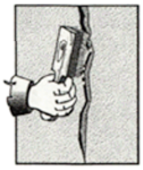
To repair that annoying wet leak in your basement foundation, CRACK SEAL™ it!

Order today for only $89.95!

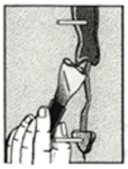
The Do It Yourself Crack Repair kit includes all materials necessary to repair an average crack up to 8 feet long and 1/16" wide, the only extra tools you need are a wire brush, a spray bottle, and a regular caulking gun.

3 Easy Steps...

Just Clean...



...Seal...



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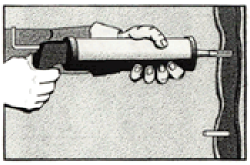

Clear, step-by-step instructions guide you through the entire process. If you should need additional assistance, you can reach us on our toll free number, 1-800-575-5325.

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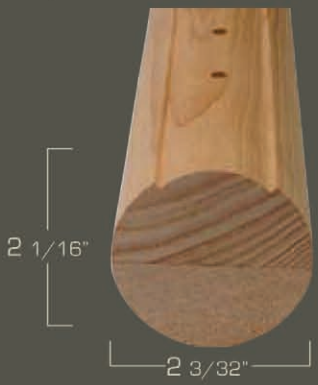

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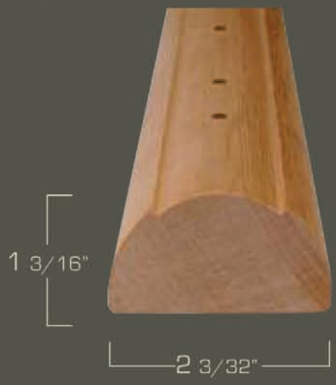

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